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VOLUME 1

1892-1900

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS PREPARED
FOR THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

1915

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1925

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1915

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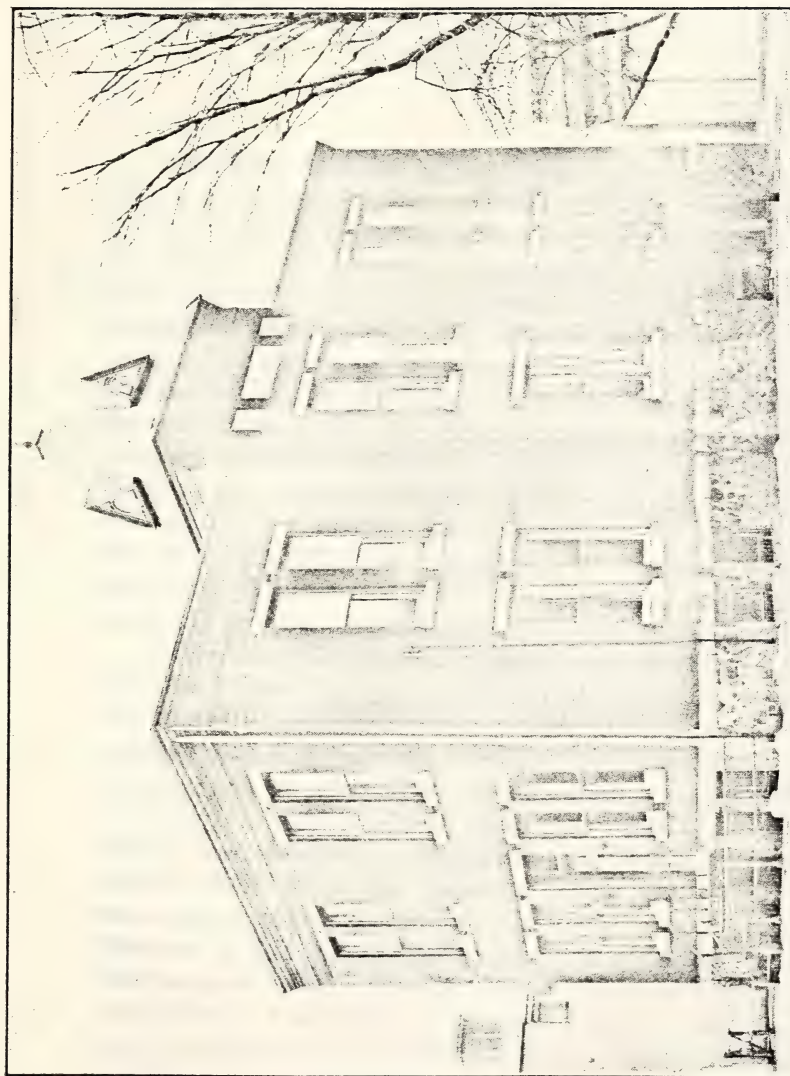
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HISTORICAL HALL
Public Square, Norristown, Pa.

INTRODUCTORY

Since the publication of Vol. IV in 1910—the tragedy of a great war has intervened and sweeping through Europe has set the world aghast with its tremendous scope; its frightful horrors and devastations; and the revolutionizing of our former serenity and mode of life. Every phase of our business, social and cultural advancement has been distracted and more or less affected by the gigantic struggle and its consequences. And, notwithstanding our wonderful prosperity—as one of its results—the cost of living, and everything incidental to it has increased to nearly double the former values. In these later years our thoughts and energies have been given in an effort to arrange and stabilize a permanent peace throughout the world rather than procuring a further development of our social and cultural aims. This state of affairs has been one of the influences which has deferred the publication of Volume V of our series.

At the time when we should have given these sketches to the press the World-War was in the second year of its progress. Men were distracted from their pursuits and occupations; the regular channels of industry were abandoning peace-time productions; and industry itself—was approaching a stage when it was expected that every bit of manpower; every wheel, and all material and resource of whatsoever kind—would be diverted toward the needs of the forces of destruction, so that our countrymen—looking forward to going to war—gave little consideration to matters not akin to it. In brief—these were the chief causes of delay in bringing out this book at its fixed period. As rapidly as it is possible, Volumes VI and VII will be prepared and issued and an attempt made to restore the series to its regular order of publication.

With respect to the activities of this Society—we have made considerable progress not only in the number, character

and scope of the papers presented and read at the meetings between 1910 and 1915 and through them a valuable prestige; but we have, also, enlarged our membership considerably; broadened our sphere of influence and attained a position of prominence as one of the leading institutions of its kind in the state, credit for which must be given to those whose careful research, unflinching zeal and personal devotion to the welfare of our organization have given it this enviable record; and it is our hope that our enlarged clientele will find in this volume an appreciation of the work which will maintain that reputation and place it in the libraries of our own members and in those in public service throughout the country.

The purposes and aims of this Society have been upheld with dignity and fidelity from the date of its organization in 1881, and there has been no deviation from the standards then initiated nor a lessening of the spirit of endeavor and research; nor have any of its meetings been curtailed by the disturbances of the times—on the contrary; it has been necessary to hold special gatherings for the presentation of illustrated lectures and other forms of intellectual entertainment, and attendance upon them have been so popular as to warrant their continuance.

One of the outstanding features of common interest to the Society is the annual "Outing" which is held in the Fall of each year and we view with pride and satisfaction their growing popularity, informality and the thorough enjoyment which these occasions afford. Within the past five years we have visited by automobile or otherwise—such historic localities in this and the neighboring counties as have extended their hospitalities to us and have been amply rewarded by the pleasure thereof. In 1910 it was to Fagleysville and Pottsgrove; in 1911 to West Norriton and Worcester; in 1912 we went to Upper and Lower Merion; in 1913 we spent the day at Gwynedd Meeting; in 1914 it was to Graeme Park, and in 1915 we toured "The Perkiomen Region." All these trips were refreshing, inspiring and spiritualizing.

At the Annual meeting of the Society, (which is held on February 22d. "Washington's Birthday",) in 1910—action was taken on the approaching anniversary, or centenary, of the

founding of the Borough of Norristown. President Joseph Fornance, at the time, appointed a committee to co-operate with a local committee of the town for a proper observance of the event—in May, 1912. The celebration was consummated with marked honor and success and an account of it will be found in these pages.

Among the varied matters which came before the Society for determination was the plan to retain the remains of General Winfield S. Hancock in Norristown instead of its proposed removal to Arlington National Cemetery near Washington. In this agitation the Society was successful in having his tomb undisturbed. A monument—commensurate with the high honors in which he was held—should be erected in some public spot in Norristown, in memory of the General. About this time also, the Society went on record in endorsing and recommending the movement to have the state acquire the Revolutionary camp-ground at Fort Washington. This matter is still in abeyance. The Society has also agreed to erect a marker on the site of the camp of the Continental army at Pottsgrove—the land has been donated by the Bertolet family. The marker was placed thereon and dedicated by the Society in 1913. In the same year, and in conjunction with the Valley Forge Chapter D. A. R., this Society unveiled a memorial marker at the corner of Main and Ford Streets, Norristown, to commemorate the crossing of Washington's army while on its march to camp at the Gulph Mills in December, 1777, a week prior to going into winter-quarters at Valley Forge.

The contemplated erection of a marker to David Rittenhouse on the homestead farm at Fairview has not yet been carried out, but the ground has been deeded to the Society and awaits the realization of the project. The Memorial Bridge marking the site of the one erected by General Sullivan during the Revolutionary cantonment, between Valley Forge and Fatland, is another unfinished matter.

In 1914 the legislature created the Penna. State Historical Commission. This body has been functioning freely in many laudable undertakings, assisting materially in the recovery, restoration and marking of historic places; and in research work,

such as preserving documents and other public papers relating to the early history of the Commonwealth. In this work this Society has been, and is—in full accord, and appreciates its importance and mission.

It is a matter of vital concern to our organization that we are rapidly outgrowing our quarters and feel the need of a modern building to accomodate our increased membership, and house our collection and the library. It was thought possible at one time that we might afford to do this when one of our neighbors, a few years ago, opened up negotiations for the purchase of a portion of our property, but after the matter was canvassed and discussed it was decided to retain the premises intact and this conclusion ended the matter, for the present, at least. The subject, however, served to emphasize the necessity for expansion; the need is imperative. It would be a fine thing if some of our public-spirited citizens or affluent members would endow a sum sufficient for us to realize our ambition in this respect, either by a contribution or bequest; and it would be in line with the tendency, in these days, for men of philanthropic disposition to create a trust in their lifetime for the operation of their benevolences—rather than found institutions that function only after they are gone and unable to see the benefits of their bounty.

The Society has now a membership of over four hundred persons which are divided into four classes—honorary, life, active and associate; and among them are not only native Montgomery countians who are more or less scattered over the country, but there are those who have been attracted to enrollment by the association and fellowship of kindred minds in the objects for which this Society stands. The membership fees are trifling—barely sufficient to carry the overhead charges; were it not for the rentals accruing from the leasing of a portion of the property. There is not enough however to provide for depreciation, betterment or publication; and were it not that the County Commissioners, through an Act of Assembly, are empowered to grant an annual subsidy of \$200.00—this Society would be unable to maintain itself in the modest way in which it does; and it is in grateful acknowledgement of the courtesy and assis-

tance of the Commissioners that we here record our thanks and appreciation, we feel justified, therefore, in presenting our serious and candid views with respect to these matters, hoping that some generous benefactor will assist to that extent—in furthering the aims of this Society. We must not let these considerations obscure the fact that while we have been enriched with a healthy growth in the number and character of the membership we have also lost several of them whose decease is a distinct loss to us in counsel, companionship and service, and to whom we now pay our loyal tribute. They were:

John W. Bickel	Mrs. A. F. Jarret
Joseph C. Crawford	Mrs. Jawood Lukens
Mrs. Theo. W. Bean	Samuel P. Middleton
A. W. Dettra	Mrs. J. D. Sallade
Mrs. P. Y. Eisenberg	Howard Wood
Hiram C. Hoover	Chas. Heber Clark
George W. Hackman	Mrs. Ida T. Bardin
Mrs. Henry W. Kratz	Miss Kate C. Clevenger
E. B. Leaf	Mrs. Miller D. Evans
Mrs. Harriet Maloney	Benjamin F. Goughler
Mrs. Hannah Weber	Oliver Hough
John C. Boorse	Walter M. James
Mrs. Anna H. Craig	Mrs. Anna E. Leidy
Mrs. Mary A. Buckman	John Meigs
Rowland Evans	George M. Williams
Dr. Henry G. Groff	Charles Wetherill
David W. Harry	

Historically, we are located in the very heart of a territory most affected by that critical period in American history which marked the turning point in its struggle for independence. The proximity of Valley Forge with its few remaining landmarks—is a physical reminder of those days, and it was where the martial activities of some of the most eminent men of Revolutionary times served their country and made its hallowed ground the source of pride and inspiration to us. One of the objects of this Society is to teach our youth those lessons which this environment offers in patriotism and veneration, and to this end we have invited school teachers to come and bring their pupils

to explore the museum and attend the meetings that they may have the benefit and profit thereof, and that no opportunity may be lost to stimulate and inculcate the spirit of Americanization among them.

For the continued interest, encouragement and support of this community we here again make grateful acknowledgment, and trust that what we may yet accomplish—will be worthy of their further consideration and favor.

DR. W. H. REED, Jeffersonville, Pa.

EMELINE H. HOOVEN, Norristown, Pa.

S. GORDON SMYTH, W. Conshohocken, Pa.

WILLIAM M. GEARHART, Norristown, Pa.

IRVIN P. KNIPE, Norristown, Pa.

CHARLES R. BARKER, Lansdowne, Pa.

Committee on Publication.

Norristown, Pa., December 31, 1925.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK
Montgomery Square, Pa.

HANCOCK LANDMARKS

By Edward W. Hocker

Three stages in the career of General Winfield Scott Hancock are associated with Montgomery County—his birth and boyhood, his recovery from the dangerous wound received in the battle of Gettysburg and the last scene of all, the funeral and burial.

* * *

In the village of Montgomery Square the house where Winfield Scott Hancock and his twin brother Hilary were born, February 14, 1824, still stands. It is an odd-looking structure, part of it being a dwelling and part was used for many years as a school house. It stands on the east side of Bethlehem pike, south of the State road.

The two-story school house has a curious wooden tower at one corner. The dwelling at the rear is of three stories. In early days the teacher and his family lived in the dwelling. A two-acre lot is part of the school tract, and a branch of the Wis-sahickon Creek flows by.

At the front of the building is a tablet inscribed "Montgomery Public School, 1876." That does not invalidate the assertion that General Hancock was born here. It means that the original building was enlarged in 1876.

Montgomery Township, in which Montgomery Square is situated, adopted the consolidated school system, and built one central school in 1925, whereupon the three small school houses of the township, including the Hancock birthplace, were sold. Augustus Stoudt was the buyer, he paying \$3400 for the Montgomery Square property.

Early in the nineteenth century, before the establishment of the public school system, this school at Montgomery Square was maintained through several endowments, and it gained a high reputation because of the capability of its instructors.

Benjamin F. Hancock, the teacher in 1824, had grown up in the family of John Roberts, the justice of the peace and leading man of the community. Benjamin Hancock was born in Philadelphia, but upon the death of his father the widowed mother placed the son with the Montgomery Square squire.

Benjamin Hancock married Elizabeth Hoxworth, whose family lived farther to the north, in Hatfield township. The young couple made their home in the dwelling attached to the school house where the husband taught.

* * *

The Hancock family moved from Montgomery Square to Norristown some time before 1828, the exact year being uncertain. For several years the father taught school in Norristown, and at the same time read law in the office of John Freedley. He was admitted to the bar in 1828, and became one of the leading lawyers of the town.

The first home of the Hancocks in Norristown still stands—a two-story stone structure close to the entrance of Montgomery Cemetery. It is likely that the Hancock family were the first occupants of this house. Henry Pawling owned the land at that time and probably built the house. Benjamin F. Hancock never owned the property. While there is little definite data as to the connection of the Hancocks with this house, General Hancock himself vouched for the fact that the early years of his boyhood were spent there. This was one reason why he had his burial vault built in Montgomery Cemetery in the corner nearest the old house.

After the father began making his way as a lawyer the family moved down into the heart of the town, and during the remainder of the lifetime of the parents they lived in the house on the east side of Swede street, south of Main street, where the Salvation Army has had its headquarters since 1907.

Benjamin Hancock, who served as a justice of the peace, in addition to practicing law, had his office in a small brick building adjoining the house. Mrs. Hancock for many years conducted a millinery shop in the house.

Benjamin Hancock was a member of the Norristown School Board for thirty-one years, and he was superintendent

of the Sunday School of the Baptist Church. Under President Johnson he was appointed collector of internal revenue, and he held that office until his death in 1867.

Here Winfield Scott Hancock lived until he went to the West Point Military Academy, in 1839. Entering the army upon his graduation, he never returned to civil life, and never again made his home in Norristown, save during short visits to his parents.

* * *

To this house on Swede Street, General Hancock was brought when his life was imperiled by a wound received on the battlefield of Gettysburg. A ball passed through the pommel of the saddle in which Hancock sat, and, carrying a nail from the saddle with it, the missile entered the inside of the thigh, close to the body.

After treatment in field hospitals, General Hancock was taken to the LaPierre House, in Philadelphia, and there his father visited him on July 6. The general was suffering greatly from the wound, and surgeons were making further examinations, having come to the conclusion that a ball or a fragment of a shell remained in the wound. Notwithstanding repeated probing, which caused great agony to the wounded soldier, the surgeons could not locate the cause of the trouble.

Finally toward the end of the month it was decided to take Hancock out of the hot city to the home of his parents, in Norristown. The trip was made on Monday, July 27, in an ordinary passenger coach on the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad. The general lay on a stretcher placed on the backs of several seats in the car.

At Mill street station, then the terminus of the railroad, the Invalid Corps, under Lieutenant Burns, was drawn up to act as a guard of honor. The Invalid Corps consisted of thirty soldiers recovering from wounds or sickness. They had their headquarters in an armory on Green street, between Main and Lafayette.

Hancock was carried to the home of his parents. It had been the intention to give him a public reception, but this had to be abandoned because of his condition.

About this time Dr. Louis W. Read, who had gained distinction in the army as a surgeon, came home to Norristown on a visit. Learning that Hancock was not recovering, Dr. Read called to see the general and volunteered to probe for the bullet. General Hancock consented, though probably with little hope that the results would be any different from those of previous attempts.

Dr. Read's first endeavor was to have General Hancock assume an attitude similar to when he was wounded. So General Hancock sat astride a chair, and then Dr. Read inserted the probe in the wound. At a depth of eight inches he located the ball. It had passed around the thigh bone and was imbedded back of the bone.

Following the removal of the minie ball, General Hancock quickly gained strength. In September he left Norristown, but he had to use crutches for some months. He reported for duty in Washington in December.

* * *

Though his stay at Montgomery Square was so short that he could have retained few or no memories of the place, General Hancock was in the habit of making visits there when opportunity offered. He also sought the home of his maternal ancestors, in Hatfield township, and was interested in hunting out the genealogy of his progenitors.

To an inquirer he wrote a long letter in his later years telling of his recollections when as a boy he visited Grandfather Hoxworth, in Hatfield, and then accompanied the family to the Montgomery Baptist Church.

Though in the popular mind Hancock was the personification of the grim warrior and the strict disciplinarian, yet many of his letters gave evidence of the real gentleness of his nature. It is difficult, however, to picture Hancock as a poet. Yet the Historical Society of Montgomery County possesses a set of verses that Hancock wrote when he left Norristown, in December, 1839, to enter West Point. It is a tender effusion inscribed to one of the fair maids of the town who evidently had won the warm admiration of the handsome youth. There is nothing in

this literary effort, however, to suggest that America lost a good poet in gaining a great military man.

* * *

General Hancock's last public appearance was as chief marshal of the funeral of General U. S. Grant, in New York City, in the summer of 1885. Shortly after that his health failed. Besides suffering from diabetes, a carbuncle sapped his strength. He died at Governor's Island on Tuesday, February 9, 1886.

Some years before that General Hancock had had a vault built in Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown. In it was placed the body of his daughter Ada, who had died in 1875. General Hancock had often spoken of his desire to rest here, within sight of his boyhood home.

The day of the funeral was Saturday, February 13,—a dismal, rainy day. Escorted by three batteries of the Fifth United States Artillery, the body of the general was taken from Governor's Island to Trinity Church, New York City, where the service was conducted by an army chaplain and the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, rector of Trinity Church. There was only the ritual of the Episcopal Church, without eulogy or address. General Hancock had never been a member of any church.

The funeral train, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, arrived at DeKalb street station, Norristown, at 3 o'clock. All available space about the station was thronged with people, many of whom had come from a distance. In the town business was suspended, and many buildings were draped in mourning.

A reception committee of citizens was at the station. It consisted of Benjamin E. Chain, Irving P. Wanger, Professor T. S. C. Lowe, Jacob V. Gotwalts and Burgess John H. White. Professor Lowe, who was acquainted with many of the distinguished men in the funeral party, was virtually in charge of the arrangements.

The military contingent accompanying the casket consisted of Battery F, Fifth United States Artillery, in charge of Major Wallace F. Randolph, who later rose to the rank of chief of artillery of the United States army.

The cortege comprised two carriages containing the Nor-

ristown committee, five carriages with the pallbearers, the hearse, accompanied by the military guard, members of the Hancock Veteran Association, of Philadelphia, and twelve more carriages with members of the funeral party. Mrs. Hancock was not able to make the trip to Norristown.

The funeral passed up Main street to Montgomery Cemetery. In front of their headquarters, in the Opera House building, the members of Zook Post, Grand Army of the Republic, stood at salute as the hearse passed. Two hundred and fifty members of the Loyal Legion left their train at Franklin Avenue station and walked to the cemetery.

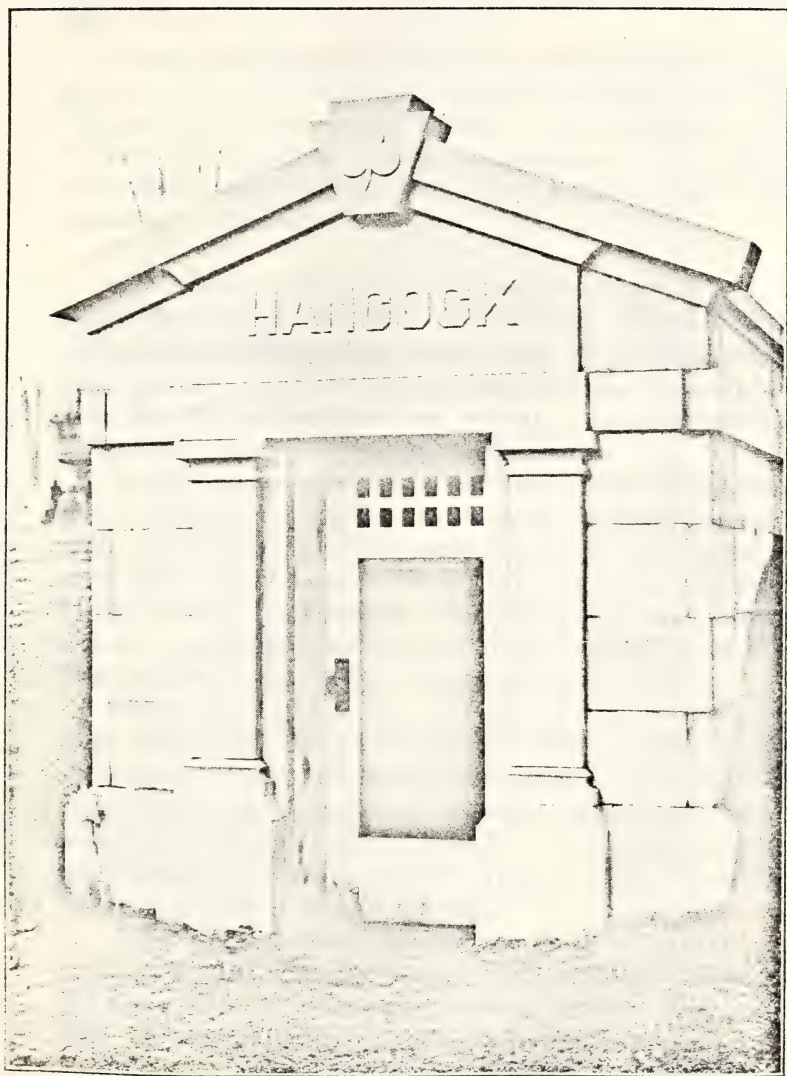
In Montgomery Cemetery rain and thaw had softened the ground, and as the throng spread over the turf the surface was churned into a sea of mud. A detail of members of Zook Post, armed with muskets, sought to keep a passageway open for the funeral party.

At the vault the pallbearers formed in two lines, General William T. Sherman being at the head of one line, and Thomas F. Bayard, Secretary of State, at the head of the other line. The other pallbearers were: General Philip H. Sheridan, General William H. Franklin, General Alfred H. Terry, General Nelson A. Miles, General John Newton, General James B. Fry, General Francis A. Walker, General William F. Smith, S. M. Hartshorne, Colonel W. P. Wilson and Major W. D. W. Miller.

Sixteen artillerymen carried the casket into the vault. As this was done three salvos were fired by Battery F, from four field pieces of Griffen Battery, of Phoenixville, which were parked in the fields adjoining the cemetery. Then the artillerymen's bugler sounded "taps," and the battery fired a major general's salute of thirteen guns.

The pallbearers and other distinguished guests, most of whom had had nothing to eat since breakfast, were taken to Professor Lowe's Assembly Building, on Main street, opposite Arch, where a collation was served to several hundred persons. The visitors were much interested in the fact that the building was heated with gas stoves, an invention of Professor Lowe and then a decided novelty.

Among the guests were Governor Pattison, former Gover-



TOMB OF GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK IN MONTGOMERY CEMETERY
Norristown, Pa.

nor Hoyt, General James A. Beaver, who later became Governor of the state; George W. Childs and General John F. Hartmanft, a former Governor of the State.

Great crowds assembled about the building to try to get a glimpse of men who had helped to make American history, and General Sherman and General Sheridan were compelled to hold an impromptu reception to meet the numerous former soldiers who insisted upon shaking hands. At 6 o'clock a special train carried away the party.

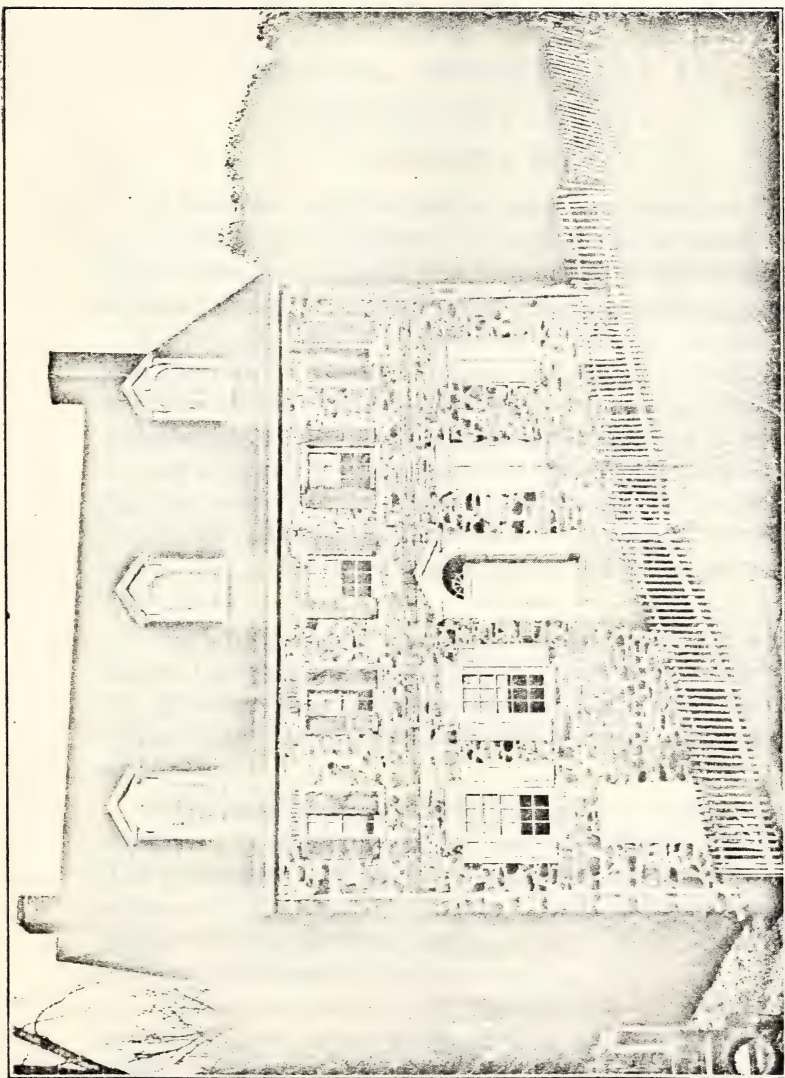
* * *

Immediately after the funeral a movement was started to erect a monument to Hancock in Norristown. George Bullock was elected president of the organization; Charles Hunsicker, Esq., secretary, and Wm. Stahler, treasurer. Subscription books were distributed throughout the county. About \$5000 was pledged, but the project never attained fruition.

In the ensuing twenty years there were frequent agitations about the alleged neglected condition of General Hancock's tomb, and several times bills were introduced in Congress to move the body of General Hancock to Arlington Cemetery. Finally, in 1911, the Historical Society of Montgomery County, assumed responsibility for the care of the vault, and since then there has been no renewal of the effort to move the body.

Hilary B. Hancock, twin brother of General Hancock, spent most of his life in Minneapolis, Minn., where he was interested in milling. He died in 1908, and was buried in the lot of his parents in Montgomery Cemetery. In the same lot are buried two children of John Hancock, a third brother of General Hancock, and also a grandson of the general, Winfield S. Hancock, Jr. son of Russell Hancock.

After General Hancock's death a fund of \$55,000 was raised by popular subscription and presented to Mrs. Hancock, and also a house in Washington, costing \$22,000. She died in 1893, and was buried in St. Louis, her early home.



THE SQUIRE LOWRY HOUSE
at Gulph Mills, Pa.

COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BY EDWARD F. BOGGS

I have been asked to read to you a short paper on Colonial Architecture in Montgomery County,—or to be more correct, those buildings of Colonial type built before or during the Revolutionary period, and still existing in more or less original form. If it were only possible to take you with me across the border into Philadelphia County, I should not despair of holding your attention during the period allotted to me. As you well know, Philadelphia is the center of Colonial Architecture in this country and combines in many ways the feeling of the spacious and dignified brick Colonial houses of the South with the quaint and picturesque architecture of the New England type and even reminds one occasionally of the Dutch feeling so prevalent in New York.

Such houses as the Stenton at Wayne Junction; the Wistar House, Germantown; the old Morris House in Philadelphia; the Mt. Pleasant house in Fairmount Park and others; are classics of their kind; worthy of careful study and may well awaken our enthusiasm.

Montgomery County has, I am sorry to state, very little worthy to be classed under the head of Colonial Architecture. The influences were against a consistent development of the style,—with the Swedes in Lower Merion and the German settlements in the northern portion of the County, the style was more or less effected by them.

We have however, some beautiful bits of Colonial work, and much more, which, although not pure, is interesting by the skilful adaption of its detail and massing to utilitarian and economic purposes.

While our forefathers were in a life and death struggle

subduing the country; fighting the Indians and preparing the soil for cultivation, their cousins in England having finished their wars and political disturbances, were busily engaged in developing the Fine Arts. Architecture received its full share and the Georgian period of English Architecture abounds with examples of highly developed forms of the Renaissance.

The art of this period,—including also the first twenty years of the nineteenth century,—is generally called “Colonial.” Some object to the term: saying that there is too much variety of style to come under one head; and that, moreover,—the best work was executed long after the original Colonies had become Provinces—and even later. But the term has been in use so long and is so suggestive and comprehensive, that it would be difficult to find one more acceptable. Object as we may to the words: “Gothic” and “Colonial”, we cannot spare them, for no other words call up in the mind so completely a picture, not only of architecture and of the other arts, but of all the peculiar conditions, social, religious and political, which produced the Mediæval ecclesiastical architecture of Europe and the eighteenth century domestic architecture of America.

In this domestic architecture there was evolution and growth, just as truly as in any other style. If the perfection of Greek Art remained unaccountable until the archæological discoveries on the banks of the Nile and the Euphrates, still less would one understand Colonial art without a knowledge of the preceding styles. America owes Europe much, and we shall see that the emigrant left the mother country with neither empty hands nor empty heads.

As our merchants and others attained a state of affluence, they sent to England for plans of buildings such as were being built in that country. These houses were erected in the cities of Philadelphia, Baltimore and some in Boston. Bricks and other materials being sent from England. But almost immediately it was recognized that the difference in climatic and other conditions would change somewhat the style of architecture. In the South, and even in Pennsylvania, the presence of negro slaves made a separate building for culinary and laundering services advisable which caused the massing of the buildings

into a main house with side wings connected by covered or closed passages. In the South the main house was usually additionally accentuated by a covered porch, running up two stories with large columns and pediment over.

In New England on the other hand, the entire building is contained under one roof; a kitchen or rear wing occasionally being added however, and later on spacious porches,—either front and back or at the sides—constituted another change from the English model. So we find a new style developing from the English Renaissance of the Georgian Period, having for its defining features a central building with side or rear wings formed by either buildings or porches.

In the matter of detail, the Colonial architect was again influenced by the material obtainable. Wood was the almost universal material used for exterior and interior detail of cornices, entrances, porches and other architectural features, and wood being a much lighter material than stone (which was being used in England) gave the artist the feeling that fine and delicate mouldings and ornament would be more artistic and appropriate.

Again, the Colonies were lacking in men versed in the Industrial Arts. No carvers, decorators or painters were at hand, so that instead of carving, other means of ornamentation were invented. Fluted, reed moulding—(holes bored in such a way as to form patterns) and festoons, are distinctive features of our Colonial style. The detail of our Colonial architecture has been severely criticized as an attempt to produce an imitation of carved ornament with reed cane flute mouldings; festoons made by boring holes at intervals, and the like as I mentioned before; also, the pasting on of putty ornaments. Undoubtedly the criticism is well founded, but it must be allowed that with the limited means at the command of our forefathers, the lack of artists and carvers as before mentioned, the result is truly remarkable in showing what ingenuity and refinement of feeling they must have had to produce such results with so little from which to draw.

The covered porch or veranda with its classic columns, elongated to show the material; (wood). In its classic cornices

—lighter in dimensions than those in the Northern country—often crowned with a classic balustrade—we have seen to be distinctly American Colonial feature. The dormer window may also lay claim to our Colonial architecture for its increase in size and embellishment. In England, * * * * * the dormers were made as small and inconspicuous as possible, while we, on the other hand,—have enlarged and dignified it until it is the usual thing now—to see the window with its arched head; its ornamented pilaster, cornice and pediment. The chimneys also have received much attention. In the houses which are gabled at the sides, the chimney forms a portion of the gable and are used to diversify the skyline.

So much for Colonial Architecture. Numbers of buildings throughout the county, especially in the northern part, are somewhat influenced by the German style. Brick pavements, long ridges, and a rather low appearance as the first floor is almost on the ground level. Large covered plaster cornices, pent eaves and other points,—add to the picturesqueness and show a distinctiveness such as is not found elsewhere. With this preamble, suppose we examine a few examples of existing Colonial architecture and see what we can find. I had hoped to hunt up and visit many of the buildings of the Colonial period in the county but have only had one spare afternoon—since I was notified to inflict you with this paper and consequently will have to limit myself to the few buildings which I had previously examined, and upon the information of friends who have been kind enough to supply me with data.

Let us journey first to Gulph Mills, where so much of historic interest has occurred. We traverse the winding road from Conshohocken with its steep hills on one side and its brook trickling among the stones and covered with underbrush on the other,—until we come to the bridge and see to the right the Bird-in-Hand Inn, which will be treated of later. Turning to the left and mounting the hill we come upon the McFarland house, (formerly old Squire Lowry's) which has better proportions and detail than hardly any other I know of in the county. I am very sorry to be obliged to state that this building does not come within the space of time known as the Colonial

period, having been erected, according to the figures on the straps holding the conductor heads in 1803. The decadence of the Colonial style is supposed to have begun in the latter part of the 18th Century and buildings erected later than 1790 to 1800—are usually faulty in proportions and detail. This house, however, seems to have retained much of the delicate detail and mouldings of the best period of Colonial Architecture and I shall therefore take the liberty of describing it to you and will try to be careful in the future not to transgress in this respect. We find the walls built of local stone, which being plentiful throughout the county, the houses were usually built of it. Brick was indeed costly as (at that time,) the outside or facing brick was brought from England and only the wealthy could afford to have houses built of this material. There is however, a projecting brick band around the building, and the heads of all the windows are brick—excepting the first story front windows which are of marble. The front entrance is particularly well proportioned, and the detail is good and thoroughly Colonial; the same may be said of the cornice. The dormers are exceptionally well designed. The interior is not so ornate. The mantels around the fireplaces are however good and well preserved. For the lover of Colonial work this house is well worth a visit.

The Isaac Potts' house now preserved in Valley Forge Park as Washington's Headquarters during the long to be remembered winter of 1777-78—is very interesting. This you will note has the kitchen wing separated by a covered passage. The hood over the front door is a distinctive feature, and there is only one other example in the country, Newport, R. I. You will notice the panelled wainscoting in the first floor rooms and the ornamental features on the mantel sides of the rooms, consisting of the fireplace in the centre with panelling over it and a semi-circular headed door with archibolt and key blocks on one side opening into a side hall. On the other, one of the various Colonial closets with semi-circular head to match the door, and the shelves are cut in quaint patterns with moulded ends. The walls are quite thick, and the windows have the sills forming seats,—some of which raise, making closets. This

building is supposed to have been built prior to 1768. Other buildings in this vicinity are Lafayette's headquarters, to the right of Valley Creek just beyond the road. This is said to be in a good state of preservation.

General Knox's headquarters is another building of Colonial lines; north from Mt. Joy. Both these buildings are of stone and plastered.

Retracing our steps to Upper Merion again, we stop near the present Henderson Station of the Chester Valley Railroad to see the Holstein House, built in 1714. The old porches have disappeared and the only architectural features worthy of note are the mantle-pieces with the moulded shelves and panelling and the quaint closets patterned like those in Washington's headquarters. Another building in the vicinity is the Abrams House at Abrams Station on the P. & R. R. R. The Ellis house, built in 1802. Zebulon Potts' house at the end of Sixth Avenue, Conshohocken, is of the regular Colonial plan—with the hall running from front to rear with two rooms on either side. Also a house on Hector Street, Conshohocken, a large stone mansion.

The house on Conshohocken Turnpike, known as the "Angel House"—received its name from the fact that the builder purchased and built into the front walls, a carved stone tablet brought from Italy and intended to adorn the house of Robert Morris which had been under erection at the corner of Eighth and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia. (This building was finally abandoned owing to Morris' financial embarrassments due to loans made in the founding of the United States Government.) On this tablet are two figures: one with a book—representing literature and other—brushes and palette—representing Art.

At Plymouth, the house now owned by Mrs. Thomas Hovenden was built in Colonial times,—also the house now occupied by Mrs. Wm. Livezey; and the Friends' Meeting House were also of the usual Colonial type. The King of Prussia Inn is mentioned here on account of its exceptionally large chimneys and fireplaces. The Anthony Morris house, at Spring Mill, is a very quaint specimen of Colonial Architecture and is unique in having a slight gambrel in the roof. There are few specimens of this type in this section of the country, they are usually

found in New England where they are quite common. This Morris dwelling is of the true Colonial style and well worth studying.

Further up the river, at Norristown, we come to another notable building which was erected about 1785, by General Andrew Porter and called "Selma" by him. This house passed into the Knox family in 1824 and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fornance and family. It is in a splendid state of preservation. The exterior is well proportioned. The plan is a typical Colonial one,—a hall right through the building with two rooms on either side. Later on a kitchen wing was built and connected to the house by a covered passage. This house has the old-fashioned hand-moulded wooden sills to the windows. The walls, now plastered with fine pebble finish,—were originally of local stone, pointed with wide joints and arched over the windows. The cornice, with its medallions is well proportioned and moulded. The front door is a fine example, also in addition to being well preserved and having the Colonial details, it has also the unusual feature of the soffit of the crown moulding fluted. This gives a very pleasing effect. The dormer windows are admirably proportioned and moulded in the best of the style. The front steps are of marble. The interior of the house has little of architectural interest. The trim mould, the chair rail, baseboard, etc., are in good style. The old corner closet in the dining room has the moulded shelves. The wood trim around the windows comes down to the sill line with panelled pilasters below the trim, the corner rounded by a fluted quarter-round such as is often seen in Colonial furniture. The original mantel pieces have been removed and marble mantles substituted. I was glad however, to find the most ornate one in the loft. The shelf is exquisitely moulded with bob and reed moulding placed at intervals; the centre accentuated by a panel which is ornamented with flutes and reeds; the same being the case over the pilasters. The construction of the house is particularly interesting. In those days nails were forged by hand and were very expensive, so we find the joists and rafters secured by wooden pegs, the beams first being mortised into one another. This occurs where the joists are

framed into girders and where the rafters come together at the ridge. We find it in all of the buildings of the older period and it may be plainly seen in Isaac Potts' house, now used as Washington's headquarters.

The old barn and out-building are in a good state of preservation and are picturesque in appearance.

Near the Porter house on the Cemetery Avenue, is the old Hancock house, it is of historical interest only. Further down the street was the house of Colonel Knox, occupied for several years by the Hon. I. P. Wanger and was demolished only last year. This was a small house with low ceilings but the old wainscoting and mantels were interesting. The houses built of brown stone opposite the First National Bank are said to be very old and one of them has a very interesting Colonial mantel piece. The old house at the corner of Main and Cherry streets, now used as an office by Mr. Corson, has a Colonial doorway of good lines and proportions and is undoubtedly the best in Norristown. The dormers too are of good Colonial type.

Proceeding along the Reading Pike, we turn off at Jeffersonville and take the road leading to Shannonville, and arrive in time at the Audubon house which is situated on the shore of Perkiomen Creek. This building was erected in 1789, I believe, but alterations and additions have changed its character almost completely. However the old walls are still standing with the large carved cornice; parts of the original stairway and many of the doors, architraves, etc.

The Abrams house in Upper Merion at Abrams Station on the Reading Railroad, is another very interesting house. It has been added to both at the side and rear and I have been unable to find the date of the original building. The ornamental cornice and the quaint mantel pieces with secret drawers in the frieze of the entablature over the pilasters. This feature, found in many of the mantel pieces in Philadelphia, I have not discovered elsewhere in Montgomery County.

The house of former Governor Pennypacker, at Schwenksville—has been referred to me as a very interesting specimen of the early Colonial architecture, but I have not been fortunate enough to have seen it for myself. The description which I

have read of it and the photograph proclaim it to be an interesting structure. The pitch of the roof is considerably steeper than is usual and this may have been the German influence. Although one of the distinctive features of the American Colonial is the steeping of the roofs to a greater extent than the English for the reason no doubt of causing the snow to slide off. Washington is said to have occupied this dwelling for a few days in October of 1777.

Let us now retrace our steps to the extreme eastern part of the county and proceed from Philadelphia up the Bethlehem Pike until we come to "Hope Lodge" in Whitemarsh township, which is built of brick, presumably brought from England. This house is supposed to have been built not later than 1700 and has a semi-circle headed doorway with two windows on either side. It is long and low with admirable proportions. A visit to the interior would doubtless reveal many treasures to the delver after historic Colonial Architecture.

"Dawesfield" is another old house in this vicinity. Situated on a cross road connecting Morris Road to the Skippack Pike. This old mansion was built of stone with a rear wing; it evidently had, at first, an open terrace along the front as the windows—originally doors on this side of the house—come directly to the floor. The rear porch seems almost as if it might be the original,—it is so exactly in keeping with the style of that period. The rear wing with the pent-eaves, was built soon after the main house which was erected in 1736; the right hand side was built much later. This house is of much historic interest. Washington occupied the second story middle room,—Lafayette the room under it, and Wayne the room on the ground floor to the left.

"The Emlen House", of historic memory, in Whitemarsh Valley—seems also to have been "Washington's Headquarters" during the winter of 1777—before the Army retreated to Valley Forge. I have a photograph of the exterior with me, kindly given me by Mr. Powers and one can see the extent of the front elevation and the proportions. The porches of course are of recent date.

"The Wentz House" in Worcester township, north of Skip-

pack Road, and east of Centre Point,—is an unusually interesting bit of work as it has pent-eaves around almost the entire house. This gives it a quaint and Dutch-like appearance that is extremely pleasing. The house is built of stone and the front is laid up in range work and dressed, similar to many of the old Germantown houses facing the street. This house was, of course, also occupied by Washington, in October of 1777, is said to have been built in 1748. The only other house that I have a description of and which was built during this period—is the Manor-House of Sir William Keith erected in 1721. It is situated on the boundary road between Montgomery and Bucks counties, a mile from Doylestown Road. Washington is said to have occupied it the night before he crossed the Delaware to fight the Battle of Trenton. I cannot but think that the roof, although very old, is of more recent construction than the house as it is a steep gambrel, almost a mansard—and very unsightly. The stonework of the house is built in coursed work and roughly tooled; it is quite large and pretentious compared with some of the other houses which we have examined.

Of the old places of worship in Montgomery County during the Colonial Period, we find Old Swedes Church in Lower Merion township; the Lutheran Church at Trappe; the Norriton Presbyterian Church on the Germantown Pike, near Fairview, and the Friends Meeting Houses situated at Plymouth, Merion, Horsham, Gwynedd and Abington.

The Abington Friends Meeting House was built in 1697 and has since been renovated and enlarged. The quality of the stonework is very fine indeed, being laid in long narrow lengths, artistically broken and pointed. There is not much else to be said of it as architecture.

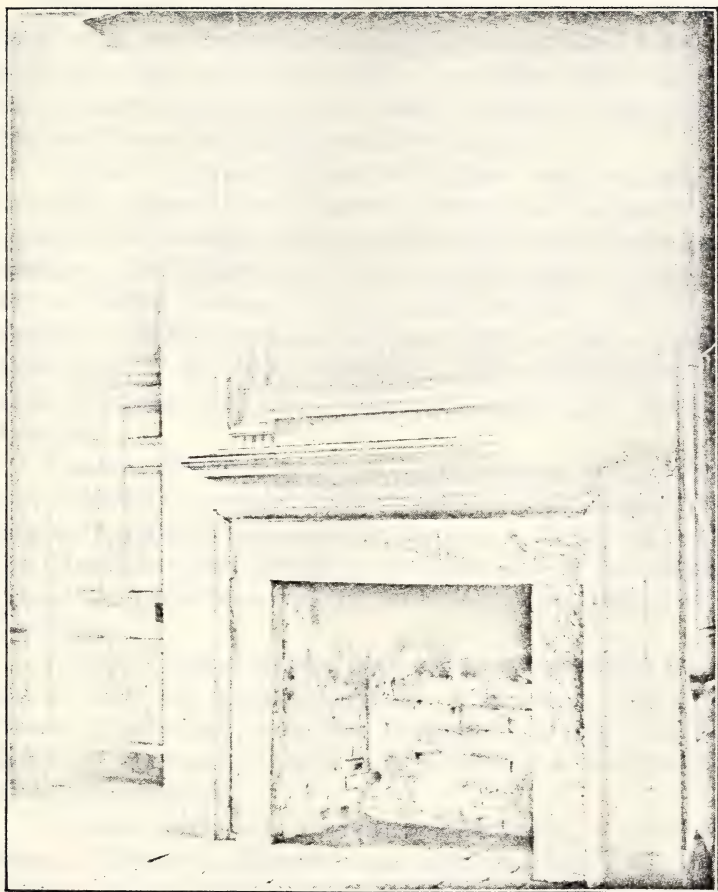
Plymouth Meeting House, built about 1714, has also been considerably added to, structurally—the cornice is well designed and seems to be of the original pattern.

Horsham Meeting House, originally built in 1718, and still standing seems to have been erected about 1803.

The Merion Meeting, originally dated 1695—has been enlarged and almost entirely rebuilt and has lost much of the Colonial feeling it may have possessed.



MANOR HOUSE OF SIR WM. KETTL, GREASE PARK
on the Bucks-Montgomery Counties boundary line.



COLONIAL FIREPLACE IN HALL OF SIR WM. KEITH'S MANOR HOUSE
Graeme Park, Horsham, Pa.

The Old Norriton Presbyterian Meeting House is a very unique structure as it stands at present; it cannot be said to have any Colonial feeling whatsoever. It is situated on the corner of Germantown Pike and Trooper Road and dates about 1689.

The building is erected of stone laid up in front in regular range work; and there are three large openings in the front of equal size, equally spaced, and with semi-circular heads with cut voussoirs—giving the structure quite a dignified appearance. Apparently none of the old woodwork remains.

The old Lutheran Church at Trappe, built in 1743, is thoroughly unique in being entirely German in character; and it seems to be almost a copy of the Province church in northern Germany. The gambrel roof; the triangular apse; (which is not the chancel however), the exterior vestibules, with their semi-circle headed entrances; the queer little windows opening in the gallery; the quaint woodwork of the gallery with the rough benches; and steep pitch roof are all of German character.

The Old Swedes Church in Upper Merion, near Bridgeport, is known to so many of the members of your Society, and its history and associations are so dear—as to be known to all. The Church has been altered so often that little of the original architecture remains—so I shall not attempt a description of it at this time.

The old Taverns or Inns next occupy our attention and a few of them are most interesting. The Inn at "King of Prussia" is principally noted for its immense chimneys and fire places. It has however, good proportions and a queer old air of homelike rusticity.

The most important building, architecturally, is Abraham Wentz's Tavern on Skippack Road, about one-half a mile east of Centre Square. This was built of brick in 1762. The stretchers are said to have been made on the place, but the black headers are said to have been gotten from abroad. It is the second house of the period that was built of brick, of which I know, in the county. You will note the large coved plastered cornice similar to the one on the Audubon House—which returns horizontally across and up the slopes of the gables.

The Bird-in-Hand Tavern, at Gulph Mills, dates back to about 1774 and is situated,—as was often the case—with the side gable facing the street. This gave a wide space in front for the congregation of carriages.

I am much indebted to Mr. Frederick Powers who has been so kind as to lend me some of his photographs which he made at different times; they seem, however, to be just what is necessary to show something of the old buildings which I have been talking about. I have also brought with me a few photographs of the best Philadelphia Colonial work so that you may note some of the features of the original Colonial style.

This paper has been written not so much to give information as to incite interest in our native architecture and specially those specimens found within the borders of our County. I therefore wish to caution you that any dates which I have mentioned, have not been verified and cannot be regarded as entirely authentic.



AN ORIGINAL AUGUR FROM THE OLD FACTORY AT JEFFERSONVILLE, PA.
in possession of Historical Society of Montgomery County

AN OLD AUGUR FACTORY

By Dr W. H. Reed

At the close of the civil war, and upon his return home from participating in its strife, the late Colonel Theodore W. Bean—who subsequently became the first president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County—resumed his trade of blacksmithing in the shop he owned, located in the central portion of the village of Jeffersonville, where he then lived.

About this time an itinerant augur-maker chanced in the Colonel's shop where he was engaged at work, and interested the proprietor in the manufacture of augurs, bits, etc. In due time there developed quite an industry in this quiet village; and this augur (see cut), is a product of that shop, and has stamped upon it "T. W. Bean."

To meet the demand for these tools of industry, additional room was necessary, and this was made by erecting a second story on the already large building. Many windows was built in the stone walls for a plentiful supply of light; and rows of workbenches were placed around the walls in the interior of the room; these were provided with tools for the mechanics, and here the products of the shop were finished for the market.

The first story of the building contained several forges, where the first stages of augur making was done,—such as cutting bars of iron into proper lengths; hammering one end flat with cutting-end and screw point. After a few further minor touches the product of the shop was ready for the market. The class of goods of this shop was of excellent quality, and possessed a wide reputation for superior excellence.

Colonel Bean now becoming imbued with the study of law, upon graduating was admitted to the Bar, and, as a sequence the industry was suspended; the building disappeared; the neighborhood lost—what was at one time a promising industry of importance. Now naught remains but its fragmentary history and traditions.

HISTORY OF WENTZ'S REFORMED CHURCH

By the Pastor, Rev. D. D. Brendle

In order to understand the origin of Wentz's church, or her parent, the old Skippack church, it is necessary for us to acquaint ourselves with the conditions which gave her birth, and this takes us back to the early settlement made in Pennsylvania.

Although the Swedes and Dutch had undoubtedly explored and were acquainted with the territory lying along the Delaware and Schuylkill, yet it is not probable that any permanent settlement was made by either, before the coming of William Penn.¹

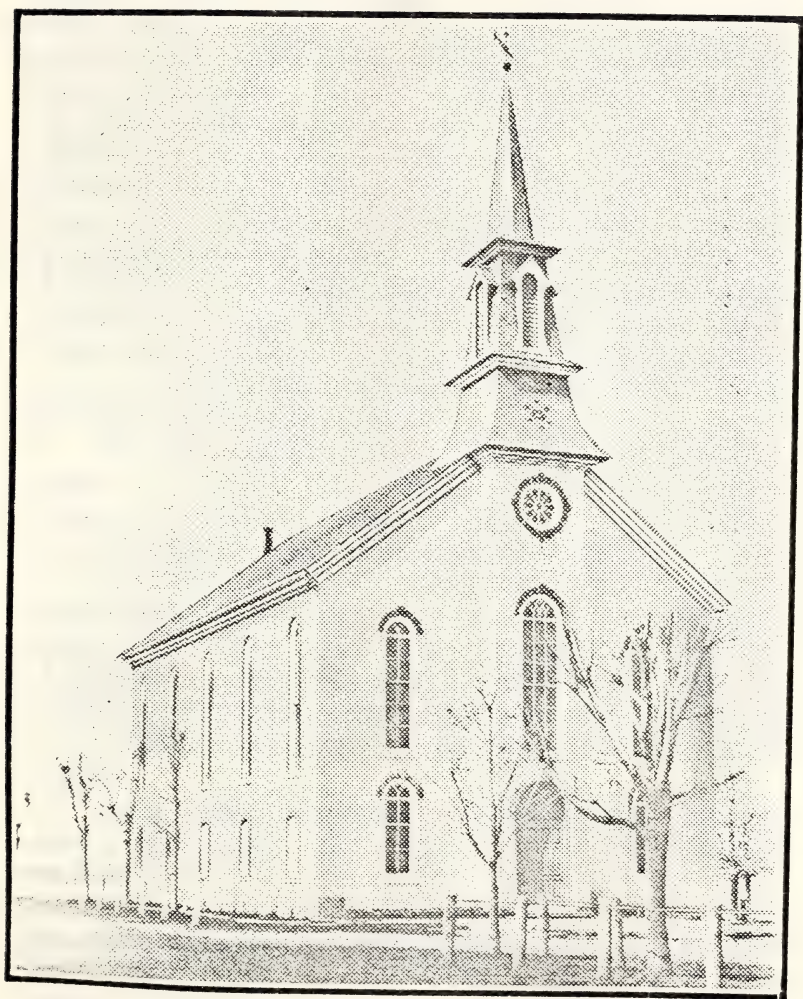
When Penn obtained the Royal Charter from King Charles II on March 4, 1681, granting to him the Province of Pennsylvania and Delaware, he appointed agents in Germany and Holland to form companies of such who desired to come to his land.

Under the leadership of Pastorius the first company of Dutch and German settlers came to Pennsylvania.

Landing in Philadelphia, October 6th, 1683, and finding the country along the river already occupied, they removed 7 miles further into the wilderness where they founded Germantown. The Welsh, Swedes, Dutch and Germans now flocking into the country. The companies that came over were for the greater part related by marriage and embraced the same faith. The streams of the Schuylkill, Pennypack, Wissahickon, Perkiomen, Skippack and Swamp furnished easy access into the interior and provided with natural grass, the locations desirable for settlement were eagerly seized by the immigrants, and along their banks we have to look for the fountains of the Reformed Church, in the United States.

¹ Note—Samuel Godyn and Samuel Blomaert were the first Dutch settlers to effect a settlement on Delaware Bay. They colonized "Swanendall," on the left bank of the Delaware river a few miles above Cape Henlopen—where they arrived the 12th December, 1630. The Colony was afterward abandoned (1635).

This settlement was followed by a group of Swedes who came, about 1637, under charter from the Swedish West India Co. Wm. Ussellinx was the projector—and Peter Minuet conducted the first expedition of settlers about 1638. Both the Dutch and the Swedes continued to alternate in the possession of both shores of the Delaware until the English Conquest and the grant to Wm. Penn in 1681. Ed.



WENTZ'S CHURCH OF TODAY

On February 22, 1702, Mathias Van Bebbber purchased 6166 acres of land from his associates of Crefield and William Penn. This tract was nearly identical with the present townships of Skippack and Perkiomen. He disposed of his land at once, selling to whoever would buy. Bebbber was a Mennonite and many of his Mennonite friends of Germantown settled along the Skippack. In spite of the unwarranted treatment that these people had received from the Protestant church in Switzerland and throughout Europe, they most cordially welcomed into their midst Reformed people. The fact that the DeHavens, Reiffs, Schutts and other Reformed people, who were prominent in the old Skippack church, should be buried in the Lower Skippack Mennonite cemetery, instead of the Reformed cemetery on the North West Branch of the Skippack stream, where you would expect them to repose, indicates a relation between these two denominations in this section which would be interesting if it were unraveled.

Among the Reformed people who settled along the Skippack you have Henry Pennypacker, in 1704; Dirk and William Renberg, Gerhart and Herman DeHaven, in 1706; Cornelius and William Dewees and Johannes Schull, in 1708.

In a petition made in 1713 for a road from Farmer's Mill to Skippack, we have the names of several other Reformed people, namely Peter Bon, Abraham Lefever, Peter Wentz and Lorentz Schweitzer. The records of Van Vlecq and a letter addressed by the Skippack congregation to the Synod of Holland, in 1730, proves conclusively that they belonged to this denomination.

James Heckler, who carefully studied the early settlement of this region, tells us that Garret DeHaven built the first house in Skippackville. It is now owned by Jesse Sholl, but has been entirely remodeled. Here DeHaven kept hotel and Heckler says that there are reasons for believing that public worship was held in this place. What evidence he refers to I do not know. Van Vlecq's records show, however, that he performed marriages and baptized children at Skippack in the years 1710-11-12. Several of the Reformed people mentioned above were members of Vlecq's Dutch Reformed congregation at White Marsh, and

it is therefore, probable that no organization existed at Skippack till Boehm began his active work in 1725. Considering the distance from Skippack to White Marsh, the wild and rugged condition of the country and road at that time, and the poor accommodation for travel, we are justified in concluding that the periodical visits of Vlecq to this neighborhood were prompted by a desire to hold worship for the women and children, who were naturally not strong enough to make the trip to White Marsh. And although we do not possess a scintilla of evidence to show that worship was continued here after the departure of the Dutch minister, still remembering the religious tenor of our ancestry, we are loath to believe that they were indifferent to these essentials till the arrival of Boehm in 1720. It would presuppose a condition of religious laxity rarely found in the lives of the other settlers in the country at the time.

We now start on the second lap of the history of this church. But in order that we may properly appreciate this turbulent period we must first know something about the persons who directed the frail bark and the location of the church building.

The first person we would call your attention to is Gerhard In den Hoffen or DeHaven. He and his brother, Herman, purchased from Ven Bebbber 430 acres of land in 1706. It was right in Skippackville. The tract was one mile in length along the line of Lower Salford and extended on both sides of the Skippack road. Herman removed to Evansburg and Gerhard bought some additional land and erected a mill on the Skippack, on what is now the Dotts property. Later he rented the mill to Felix Good, who was a member of the Skippack church. Among those who petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia on September 6, 1736, for a road from Isaac Klein's, now Harleysville, to Felix Good's mill, we find the names of Garret DeHaven and Jacob Reiff. They state that such a road will be a great convenience for those who attend church on Reiff's plantation. Due to misstatements of distance in the application and the selfish motives of the petitioners the road was not granted. DeHaven was a man of property and influence in the community. He and his family are buried in the Lower Skippack Mennonite cemetery.

It may be interesting to know that right east of DeHaven's plantation, the Renbergs had located, on a tract of land containing 300 acres. One or two of the members of this family had been married by Vlecq, but the entire family had left the community before 1725.

We now come to the second character, Jacob Reiff, who owned 540 acres of land, extending from the Morris road, in Lower Salford, to the DeHaven plantation, on the South. Henry S. Dotterer says the following concerning Reiff: "Jacob Reiff, an early settler of Lower Salford township, was intimately associated with the affairs of this region. He was a man of superior intelligence, held public office for several years, owned considerable land and was conspicuously identified with the interests of the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania."

"John George Reiff, his father, on the 16th of May, 1724, purchased of Henry Pennypacker and Eve, his wife, a tract of 200 acres, located in Lower Salford township, Philadelphia county. He died shortly before the 7th of January, 1727, leaving a wife, Anna Maria Reiff, and four sons and one daughter, viz: George Reiff, the eldest son, Peter Reiff, Conard Reiff, and Jacob, who was appointed sole executor, and Anna Maria Reiff."

"The exact date of the arrival of Jacob Reiff (who doubtless came with his father) into this country has not been determined. From the diary of Gerhardt Clemens, who purchased in 1718 of David Powell six hundred and ninety acres, in Lower Salford township, the following extracts are made, which indicate that Jacob Reiff was engaged in business here as early as July, 1723: "July 2, 1723, settled with Jacob Reiff, balance due him on land 14 pounds and 18 shillings." James Y. Heckler justly remarks: "If he, Jacob Reiff, was entrusted by the colonial government as agent to go around among the settlers to collect partial payments on their land in 1723, he must have been here some time before, well acquainted and in the confidence of the leading men."

Jacob Reiff disposed of the greater part of his land so that in the tax list of Salford township for 1734 he is returned as the owner of 150 acres. This plantation was located near the south-

east border, of the present township of Lower Salford, on both sides of the Little Branch creek, near the Skippack, and remained the family homestead until recently of the pioneer owner's decedents.

Quoting Dotterer again: "It was here that he lived during the years of his social life, when he held the responsible position of Deputy for the probate of wills, by authority from William Plumstead, Register General. The exact period during which he acted in this capacity has not been ascertained by the writer but it covered at least the years 1743 and 1748 inclusive. Wills were brought for probate from many of the interior townships, including Salford, Hanover, Amity, Oley, Perkiomen, Skippack, Towamencin, Maidencreek, Saucon, Rockhill, Colebrookdale, Worcester, Providence and Franconia. The object in having a German-speaking deputy located here was doubtless to accommodate those German-speaking inhabitants who lived a great distance from Philadelphia and were ignorant of the English language.

We now come to the third character, Gabriel Shuler. The Shuler family had located at an early date, at Georgetown along with the Mennonite settlers. According to tradition, Gabriel was fond of the chase and on one of his excursions into the wilderness chanced upon a tract of land located a little southeast of Harleysville, which greatly pleased him and upon which he settled shortly afterwards. Here he lived during the existence of the Skippack church. He was married to Margaret Aweegh, by Vlecq, September, 1711. In 1770 we find him located in Frederick township and possessed of 700 acres of land. According to local historians he lived to be 109 years old. He was a man of means and influence. His grandson having the same name, was married to Rev. John Philip Leydich's daughter. Gabriel Shuler, Sr., was a great worker in wood and made a pulpit at his home and presented it to the church at Goshenhoppen. He and his wife Catherine, Margaret Shuler, Elizabeth Shuler and William Shuler were buried in the cemetery adjoining the Skippack church.

Undoubtedly Garret DeHaven, Jacob Reiff and Gabriel Shuler were the most prominent members of the Skippack

church. If I were to attribute any mental characteristic to these men I would say that Shuler was always loyal to Boehm and must have heartily sympathized with his pronounced Reformed faith. DeHaven was a man of initiative and may have had a strong inclination for the Mennonite church, while in Reiff we have the man of compromise as will be seen by the tradition that Dr. Weiser has preserved, that the people called Reiff, "ah so" (auch so or just so) because he was in the habit of agreeing with those with whom he conversed. It is well to bear in mind when we consider the later history of Reiff that while the Pennsylvania German is peaceably inclined, he also can become very stubborn. It is more than likely that on account of the prominence of Reiff in the community the central position of his plantation between Shuler and DeHaven and the other Reformed people settled between Harleysville and Skipackville that the church was located on the Reiff farm.

The fourth character I would introduce to you is Rev. John Philip Boehm. Boehm was a school teacher in Lamsheim, Germany, and came to Pennsylvania in 1720 and located at Blue Bell where he owned a farm. Since you are all well acquainted with this character I will simply state that to him belongs the honor of having first organized into congregations the German Reformed people of Pennsylvania, and concerning his initial labor I will permit him to speak for himself. In his report to the Synod of Holland, July 8, 1744, he writes thus:

"Formerly, when there was no Reformed services in this county, the Reformed people at Falkner's Swamp, Skippack and White Marsh came together and when they took communion it was with the Presbyterians in Philadelphia in the year 1725. But because this appeared to some as not in accord with our Reformed Church they stayed away and became much scattered, as wandering sheep having no shepherd, which was distressing to observe.

"Accordingly they resolved once more urgently to request me (J. P. Boehm), although for full 5 years had declined to do so, that I would become their pastor. This was so touchingly represented to me by two of their members thereunto commissioned that our hearts melted together in tears, and in the

name of all the people it was pressed upon my conscience whether I had courage to answer for it at the last day of Judgment if I should leave them thus without help and allow so many souls to remain scattered among all kinds of sects, of which this country is filled. I thought indeed that it would be better for me if I could escape this yoke and support my family with my work and agriculture, but I was convinced by my conscience that I could not do otherwise. I allowed myself to be persuaded to this work. With humbleness of heart I addressed myself to the Lord's work and drew up with my brethern as well as I could, a constitution of the church, so that all things might be done in good order. We divided the charge into three congregations mentioned above, and when the constitution had been presented to and accepted by the whole people I was regularly elected by each one of the congregations and a formal call extended to me by the elders. Whereupon I began the ministry of the Lord in his name. After I had preached a few times to my dear congregations, namely Falkner's Swamp (which place is now called New Hanover township), Skippack and White Marsh, which had entrusted themselves to my ministry, we celebrated the Lord's Supper and there communed for the first time on October 15, 1725, at Falkner's Swamp, 40 members; in November, at Skippack, 37 members, and on December 23, at White Marsh, 24 members. This was the first beginning."

We see from the above that Boehm for a period of five years, or from the time of his arrival in this country in 1720 to 1725, served the people of Skippack in the capacity of reader and preached to them from time to time and after the year 1725, without being regularly ordained; that he performed all the functions of the ordained minister a little over two years. Boehm, as pastor, carried on his work in peace, fondly looking forward to the time when it should bear grain. But it was the calm before the storm.

On September 18, 1724, there appeared in Philadelphia, a young man but 27 years old, who was destined to destroy the harmonious relations between Boehm and his congregations. This young man, the Rev. George Michael Weiss, had arrived

at Philadelphia at the head of the Reformed people from the Palatinate.

Hearing about the work of Boehm and that he preached without being ordained, he declared at once that the work of Boehm was illegal and the congregations were not justified in tolerating his lawless proceedings. Boehm says in regard to Weiss: "He ran around everywhere, tried to push me violently out of my office and preached in all my congregations without first consulting me about it." Through Frederick Hillegas, of Skippack, and Dr. Jacob Diemer, Peter and Michael Hillegas, of Philadelphia, Weiss gained many adherents at Skippack.

From 1720 to 1728 public worship was held in private homes or barns, wherever it was most convenient. According to an unpublished letter by Boehm in Holland on March 10, 1728, they broke up a service which Boehm was holding in the private house of Jacob Reiff and compelled him to hold his service elsewhere. I may be indulging in a presumption that is unwarranted when I say that the direct cause for a division in the congregation was the determination of the location for the church building. While Weiss was the immediate cause of this disruption in the congregation, it is worthy of note that in spite of all attempts on his part to oust Boehm from his other congregations and belittle his work by aspersions on his ability as a preacher and his not being regularly ordained to the ministry, that these congregations did not swerve the least in their loyalty to their founder.

There are two other facts that corroborated the above statement. The first is that the Reiff faction, or the lower congregation, as I prefer to term it, for I believe that a great deal of blame has been unjustly laid at the door of Jacob Reiff, built a very substantial church building a year after the division was made. This was the first church building of the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania. Furthermore, in a letter to the Deputies of Holland, Boehm, describing the **strategical importance** of the recently bought farm at Harleysville, shows that he was by no means partial to the Reiff plantation for a proper location for a church.

After the service which was broken up in the Reiff home on

March 10, 1728, we have two streams to follow, one takes us to Harleysville and the other to the north west branch of the Skippack. Let us now follow the first. The members who followed Boehm lived mostly around Harleysville and he preached to them in their homes or barns. When I say Harleysville I do not want you to think of a town of houses: for on March 22, 1735, Boehm, Gabriel Shuler and Ulrich Stephan bought a farm of 150 acres and 154 perches with a house on it. This was the first building in Harleysville. Boehm intended to use this house for a parsonage and to build a church right across the street. But he was disappointed. The farm had been bought by the three men for the congregation with the view that the congregation might pay for it.

The congregation, however, was poor, but desiring to have a place for worship, they rented the land away and kept the house for their services. This was done in order that the rent money might help to pay the interest of the money that was invested in the farm. This congregation was weak from the start and was becoming more so as the years rolled on. On July 13, 1742, Shuler and Stephen sold their interest in the farm to Boehm. On April 9, 1745, Boehm sold 100 acres to Henry Myers, and on December 28, 1745, disposed of the rest, 49 acres and 126 perches, to Henry Deering. The likelihood is that over an acre of land had been reserved out of this tract for a church.

Boehm continued to preach to his congregation till about Dec. 1748, when he makes the definite statement, in a conversation with Mr. Schlatter, that "Skippack had scattered and was no more." We know that as early as Oct. 1735, he had collected 40 pounds in New York for the erection of a church and about the same time purchased the farm in Harleysville. On September 3, 1747, at the first meeting of the Coetus, Boehm was authorized to use the 40 pounds for the erection of a church in Witpen, and 4 pounds which was collected in Philadelphia to be given to the elders present for use of the Skippack congregation. Undoubtedly the faction represented by Boehm was the weaker and, while peaceably inclined, drifted away from the community and were finally lost to the congregation, so that the congrega-

tion died a natural death. There communed in Skippack in the year 1734, 53 members; in 1737, 55 members; in 1740, 39 members, and in 1743, 36 members.

James Y. Heckler, who lived in this neighborhood in his youth and was acquainted here, tells us the following: "When I was a lad of ten summers the place where the church stood was strewn with numerous small stones, being the refuse of that demolished edifice. Near what was then Christian Allebach's barn stood an old log house, the cellar of which has since been utilized for an ice house. About the year 1840 or 1841 Christian Allebach took down that log house and removed the material out on the church ground, where he had a cellar dug and built a house the first story of logs and the second story was frame. I have since been informed by members of the Reiff family that the log house which I have mentioned had been built of material which had been in the church building. Jesse Anderson moved into the new house on the old church ground and soon afterwards he was in want of a bake oven, he then began to dig the foundation for it, when, lo and behold! he dug into the foundation of the old church and took out nearly enough stones to build his bake oven. If he had then taken the measurement of the foundation the exact size of the church might have been ascertained. Heckler also says that the Allebach Mill, which belonged to the Reiff plantation and stood some distance east of the Reiff homestead, was built of logs of the old church. This can not be true for we are sure that services was held in the church in 1744 by Rev. Straub. The explanation is, however, that when the church was torn down in 1760 that some of the material in the church was used in repairing or enlarging the mill.

Three hundred yards south from the church was located the graveyard. There are those still living who when boys played around the tombstones and who have faint recollections about it. The graveyard continued to be used as a burial ground till near the close of the last century, Heckler says. But in 1838 when I became acquainted there the fence was only along one side of the graveyard. All the grave stones with names on were soap-stones, but there were many rough stones

without names and some of them so sunk down to be visible only at the top. As long as the land belonged to the Reiffs and to Allebach the graveyard was not desecrated. But after that house was built there, 17 acres of land were sold to Jesse Anderson but the graveyard was not sold; it was reserved in the deed.

Mr. Anderson raised a family of boys who did not have much to do as they grew up and they frequently tried their strength in pulling up of those stones. But in December, 1859, the property was sold by the Sheriff, John W. Stauffer, to George Nuss, a German, who cleaned out the grave yard and plowed it around. Several neighbors remonstrated with him against it, but he told them he had bought it all and he would farm it all.

About the year 1877 Rev. Schultz and Dr. Weiser visited the place when Jacob Clemens was on the place, they procured a long stone which they took there and ordered him to plant it in the middle of the graveyard. As Mr. Clemens did not know where the grave yard had been, he sent for Jesse Anderson, who came and, with the assistance of several neighbors, they dug down into a grave and planted that stone to mark the place where the graveyard had been. But after Dillman Souders had bought the property he dug out the stone and took it away. So there is nothing there now to mark the place where the dead repose.

Visiting the place last Summer we found it covered with beautiful waving oats and the words of the poet for us were most strikingly exemplified:

“Yet a few days, and thee
The all-beholding sun shall see no more
In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground,
Where thy pale form was laid, with many tears,
Nor in the embrace of ocean shall exist
Thy image, Earth that nourished thee, shall claim
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again,
And, lost each human trace, surrendering up
Thine individual being, shalt thou go
To mix forever with the elements,

To be a brother to the insensible rock
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain
Turns with his share, and treads upon.
The oak shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mold.

Yet not to thine eternal resting place
Shalt thou retire alone—nor couldst thou wish
Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down
With the patriarch, of the infant world—with kings,
The powerful of the earth—the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,
All in one mighty sepulchre. The hills
Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun—the vales
Stretching in pensive quietness between;
The venerable woods—rivers that move
In majesty, and the compaining brooks
That make the meadows green; and, poured round-all,
Old ocean's the solemn decorations all
Of the great tomb of men."

Before we turn to the lower congregation I wish to state one of the happy results of the misunderstanding between Boehm and Weiss. When Boehm was accused of being irregularly ordained to the ministry, his parishioners at once took steps to secure his ordination. Because there was no German Reformed Church in America, at that time, they made application to the authorities of the Dutch Reformed Church of New York, to perform the ordinance. These in turn referred the matter to the mother Church in Holland, which authorized the Dutch ministers in New York to comply with the request. This transaction marks the first steps taken in securing the good offices of the Dutch Reformed Church of Holland in helping the German Reformed people of Pennsylvania and fortunately brought about that excellent supervision which she exercised over us for about 60 years. It is a field furnishing excellent material for speculation as to what might have been the religious condition of the German Reformed people in Pennsylvania if the Dutch Church had not extended a helping hand. It is noteworthy that on account of a little flame of misunderstanding in a humble home in a little settlement in the very dawn

of the colony, the stream of the history of our church should have been turned by a pebble into a channel so conducive to her best interests.

The Skippack church was built in 1729 and dedicated on June 22, 1729. According to a letter in Amsterdam, Weiss preached in the Skippack church from 1727-1730; Rev. Peter Miller, from 1730 to 1731; Rev. John Bartholomew Reiger, from 1731 to 1734; Rev. John Henry Goetchy, from 1735 to 1741, and John William Straub, till 1744. During this period service must have been held in the church quite regularly. The prevailing opinion is that the congregation gradually weakened and ceased to exist about 1748. But there is evidence to show that it still retained its identity as late as 1756 and the likelihood is that it never disbanded. In the Records of the Cœtus for the year 1756 we find the following minutes: "The money remaining of the collection by Reiff and the Bibles which Dr. Schlatter had kept in his hands thus far, he gave up as was proper, although he was sick. Of these moneys the people at Skippack received 100 florins and those at Germantown also 100 florins." The other minutes reads thus: "An elder sent by the congregation at Skippack called Witpen, appeared in our Cœtus, asking that thenceforth those people might be visited by us. We promised them that Dr. Stoy should visit them twice a year on Sunday; Dr. Weiss in like manner twice; Dr. Leydich once, and during the week as often as they themselves would see fit." I would like to indulge in a fuller discussion of the history of our church at this period. I will only say that the erection of the first church building of Wentz's congregation in 1762, even before the arrival of the first minister, Alsentz, was not the result of the generated enthusiasm of a few weeks of a people who had entirely disbanded but the culmination of that quiet work performed by Dr. Leydich, Weiss and Stoy when they were commissioned by Cœtus to visit them "during the week as often as they themselves would see fit."

Let us now follow the fortunes of the Skippack church building and its adjoining cemetery.

The church was built of strong logs and stood on the border of an oak grove. The woods still stands in part and in

the neighborhood where the church stood there is a modest looking house. The visitor beholds nothing to indicate the exact location and dimensions of the building. The plow has levelled all. There are those still living who remember the time when there was no building on the spot and when instead of the straight road now leading from the Morris road to the road leading past the Reiff homestead there was a road that curved from the Morris road towards the place where the church had stood and then crossed the fields diagonally to the road passing the Reiff farm. Vestiges of this old road are still to be seen.

A study of the names of the members of the Skippack congregation as given in 1730 in letters addressed to Holland compel us to think that the lower congregation became the founders of Wentz's church in 1760. The following were the members: Gerhard Dehaven, Hans George Reiff, Wendel Keupper, Christopher Schmit, Dewalt Jung, Johannes Scholl, Johannes Lefebber, Johannes Leman, Jost Ferer, Felix Guth, Henrich Huwer, Jerg German, Valentin Hans Ammen, Lorentz Schweitzer, Johannes Will, Sr., Peter Wentz, Nicklas Loescher, Christian Weber, Peter Borger, Carl Ludwig Keipper, Andreas Hack, Lutwick Shefer, Wilhelm Schmit, Jacob Keller, Marte Lichtebeudel, Ulrich Steffen, Johann Arnett, Hans Adam, Mauer Johann, Phillip Reid, Phillips Henrich Soeller, Johannes Lehr, Bastian Schmidt, Hans Philip Steinheindig, Jacob Hanschuh, Jost Scheuler, Jacob Hack, David Montandon, Hans Jerg Bauman, Frederick Scholl, Jacob Leidy, George Dodder, Hans Meyers, Gabriel Schuler, Laenert Spaer, Lorentz Bingeman, Christian Neuschwanger and Peter Stephan. With very few exceptions these persons or their children were members of the Wentz church, when organized in 1762.

We enter upon the third lap of our history. Rev. Huber, who wrote a sketch of this church and who in his long pastorate was able to get in touch with those who were personally or through their elders acquainted with the early origin of Wentz's church, says that in 1760 a few isolated members of the Skippack Reformed church held a conference meeting, the object of which was the making of preparations for building a new church. After long consultation it was resolved to build a new

church on a spot a little in the rear of the one recently torn down, and that on the boundary line between the properties of two members who had each given an acre of ground for the purpose. According to the records, these members were John Lefevre and his wife Christianna who is supposed to have been a Wentz, and Jacob Wentz and his wife Elizabeth. The original deeds are dated June 2nd, 1726, and the land is conveyed to Peter Wentz, Philip Wentz, Jacob Weber, Philip Spare, Henry Conard and Jacob Reiff, in trust for the congregation, their children and those who may identify themselves with the church. The land which the shed and the parsonage now occupy was purchased later.

The erection of the church building began in 1762 but on account of pecuniary obstacles and other difficulties was not completed till 1771. A few of the members still remember the old church. It was built of stone and its joints were closely filled out or pointed with mortar. Its roof was high and steep, after the old Holland style. It was provided with galleries, as was then customary. The pulpit was high and the walls painted with strong colors and highly ornamented with a number of inscriptions. Above all it was an exceedingly strong and durable building. The building cost 250 pounds or about \$678.00 and was dedicated Nov. 13, 1763.

The usual difficulties attending the building of a church—that of paying it—were very much in evidence. At first a subscription book was sent around in the community soliciting funds for the church. This, however, did not realize the expectations of the members and finally the church resorted to a custom of that day by raising money by lottery. The building was then paid and a surplus was left in the treasury.

The first church building stood for 89 years. During the pastorate of Rev. Naille, in 1851, it was torn down and a new church erected and dedicated on Jan. 29, 1852. In the spring of 1878 the second church was torn down and the church now standing was erected and dedicated on the 9th and 10th of Nov. 1878. This had been necessitated by the increase in membership in the Sunday school and church during the pastorate of Rev. Huber.

I cannot enter into a full discussion of the different pastorates and the work that was performed or note things that might interest you. But I wish to state that at first the membership was small, but under the guidance of men like Alsentz, Winkhouse and Pauli the congregation continued to grow. The period of the Revolution was disturbing and the pastors were interlopers. During the 19th century we have the pastorates of Wack, Berkey, Naille, Hackman and Huber, and with one exception they were long. Notwithstanding that in their old age they did not show the vigor that they did in their youth and lost some of their influence. Still their work as it appears in the church records is most praiseworthy. My predecessor, the Rev. D. K. Laudenslager, also performed a good work, for in addition to introducing modern methods in church government, he was instrumental in bringing about some very necessary improvements in the church premises.

There is a small cemetery on what was once known as the Peter Wentz farm but now belongs to John Fisher. It is located about half a mile north of the church. This was the burial place of the Wentz family. At the present time there are 33 graves marked with tombstones and half of that number contain inscriptions.

The oldest inscriptions in the cemetery adjoining the church are: Antony Strouse, 1756, and Jacob Strouse, 1753. Why these dates should antedate the granting of the land to the church I do not know. In a spot toward the southwest corner of the cemetery lie buried the early ancestry of Wentz's church, unmarked and unknown. We hope to erect a proper memorial here some day.

There was a school house erected close to the church, probably where the sexton's house now stands, in 1765, and where the children of the community attended school. The Sunday school was started in 1836, during the ministry of George Wack.

Much might still be said but we have come to the close of our sketch. Let us hope that those who gave cheer and comfort to our fathers and mothers may still in humbleness do the same for generations yet unborn.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CENTRE SQUARE

By Miss Clara A. Beck

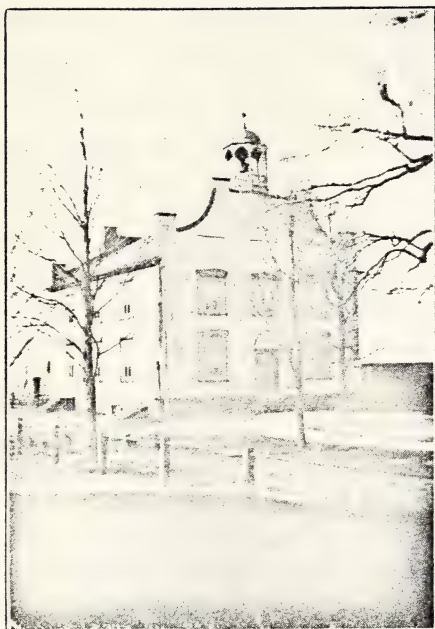
On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. John's at Centre Square it was my privilege to have written its history. Since then I have gathered much interesting matter concerning its story, which, although traditional rather than statistical, is of interest as showing the change of thought and custom which follows generation after generation.

Has it ever occurred to you to think, that in this day of genealogical research, when the reading rooms of our historical societies are visited daily by men and women, who give much time and thought to the study of the "Colonial Records" and the "Pennsylvania Archives" in order that they may establish, through the military achievements of their ancestors, a right to membership in the Colonial and Revolutionary societies of the state, that the Church also has a genealogical record, contemporaneous in its development with that of our country, which gives it a historical prestige of which to be proud?

St. John's, which on June 18th, 1919, celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding, is such a church, and in order that we may more fully understand its history, we shall preface it very briefly with the story of St. Michael's, at Germantown, which, founded in 1730, was the mother of this church.

At the time of St. Michael's founding, Germantown was a small village with but one street and a population numbering three or four hundred people, many of whom were Germans and members of the Lutheran Church. These people having no house of worship, started to build one in 1730, but being poor and not able to secure a pastor the building was not completed until 1738, and it was so small and unpretentious that Muhlenberg, coming to America and seeing it for the first time, wrote back to the church authorities at Halle, saying that it was nothing more than "ein kirklein" i. e., an unusually small church.

In 1741 St. Michael's secured its first pastor but as there



OLD ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Centre Square, Pa. (front view)



OLD ST. JOHN'S (rear view)

were not enough Lutheran preachers in America at the time to reach around among the churches, services were held here every alternate Sunday and the Parish was extended to include St. Peter's, at Barren Hill, founded in 1752; "Puffs," at Upper Dublin, founded between the years 1752 and 1754; St. John's, at Centre Square, founded in 1769, and St. Peter's at North Wales, founded between the years 1772 and 1775.

In 1769, the Rev. Jacob VanBuskirk, the then pastor of St. Michael's and its parish churches, was needed to organize congregations in Lehigh county, and in this emergency the Germantown people sent an appeal to Halle asking that some young man might be sent who would be willing to minister to them. This appeal was answered by the Rev. John Frederick Schmidt, who in company with a friend, Rev. Justus C. Helmuth, reached America some time in April of 1769.

We have it on the authority of the old people of Whitpain, long since passed beyond, that in the early days preceding the organization of St. John's their fathers had been wont to worship in private houses, in barns and on occasion in the open forest. Those desiring to hear the word of God more frequently, however, were in the habit of riding on horseback either to the Trappe or to Germantown, and since the Skippack road had been built some years earlier and led to St. Michael's, quite naturally people along its route went there, and it was doubtless owing to this fact that the attention of the Germantown church was drawn toward Whitpain, and in 1769 the latter was included in its parish.

Although the congregation had been organized no church building had been erected, but steps were taken in this direction in 1771, and on June 26th, 1773, a deed for one acre of ground was given by George Castner and wife to Philip Bower (Boyer) and George Berkheimer, of Whitpain; Michael Henky (Hainge), George Gossinger, Adam Fleck and Peter Young, of Gwynedd, and George Heyberger, of Worcester, who were the men on the building committee.

Two days later, on June 28th, 1773, the building having been completed, the committee conveyed it with the grounds to Abraham Shenberger, of Whitpain, and Leonard Berkheimer

and Philip Hoffman, of Worcester, who were the trustees of the congregation which then had 48 communicant members, as is shown by the first records, beautifully kept in the German script by the first pastor, Rev. John Frederick Schmidt, and still in the possession of the congregation.

We think it quite fitting at this point and in this connection to offer a long deferred eulogy to the memory of this first pastor into whose life and character we catch brief and detached glimpses as we read the pages of church history.

He was but 20 years old when he came to St. John's, but young as he was he had already gained a reputation as a student and having been trained for the ministry under pietistic influences, is said to have possessed in an unusual degree the spiritual graces of his office. As preacher he is said to have been instructive rather than eloquent, and the elders of his congregation are said to have voiced their regret on this point, by mildly suggesting that "he might put a little more salt into his sermons."

Although acknowledged an able theologian and strictly orthodox, he was also a gifted astronomer, as well as a recognized authority in mathematical studies, and in recognition of his general scholarship the University of Pennsylvania, in which he later held a professor's chair, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Unfortunately for his work in Philadelphia, during the very first years of his ministry the American colonies were much unsettled politically and on the verge of the Revolutionary war. Rev. Mr. Schmidt's sympathies were with his adopted country, and because of this he took occasion to denounce England's attitude from his pulpit with so much fervor that when the British took possession of Philadelphia, he was obliged with his family to leave the city and find refuge with a Jew who had been converted to Christianity, and was then living in Upper Milford.

So bitter were the British in their feelings against him that during his enforced retirement they used his church in Germantown as a barrack, destroyed his pulpit, demolished the organ, defaced the pews, plundered the parsonage and carried off his furniture.

After the British left Philadelphia, Schmidt returned to Germantown, gathered his people together, and by his tender thoughtfulness for them won their lasting love and devotion.

We may admire Rev. Mr. Schmidt for his scholarship; approve his orthodoxy; applaud his patriotism; but the qualification which must ever meet our warmest commendation is the beautiful spirit of self renunciation displayed by him during the fearful ravages of yellow fever in Philadelphia, in the year 1793, when, owing to the pestilence, the greater part of his congregation was wiped out and his wife and seven children were taken from him, in spite of which however, and in direct opposition to the commands of his vestry, he refused to relinquish his duties until he himself was stricken. He recovered, however, and, was permitted to serve the Philadelphia church 13 years longer. His ministry covered a period of 43 years altogether, 17 of which were given to St. John's at Centre Square, from 1769 to 1786, and during this time 105 persons were confirmed by him in his church. This may not, at first thought, seem like a sufficient number of accessions to the church roll for such a length of time, but it must be remembered that as a part of a parish including five congregations, with services held in each once a month, and the Lord's Supper celebrated but once a year, to say nothing whatever about the sparsely settled condition of the country district at that time, the growth of the congregation was creditable to the pastor serving it.

Dr. Schmidt died on May 16th, 1812, and was buried in front of the chancel of the church he was serving in Philadelphia at the time, i. e., St. Michael's at Fifth and Arch streets, this being at that time with Zion's church, part of a large congregation requiring two church buildings and two pastors.

On this occasion Dr. Helmuth, joint pastor with him, whose friendship he had enjoyed from boyhood, with whom he had emigrated to America, besides whom he had labored during all the years of his ministry, preached the funeral sermon, and his text was taken from the second book of Samuel, first chapter and twenty-sixth verse, reading as follows: "I am distressed for thee my brother Jonathan; very pleasant has thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of woman."

PASTORS AT ST JOHNS

The Rev. Anton Hecht was the second pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church at Centre Square. He was a school teacher by profession, and in 1785 the congregations at Tohicken, Upper Dublin and North Wales requested his ordination, but this request being denied them, he was afterward ordained by some independent minister, and became pastor of "Puff's" North Wales and Centre Square congregations. He was a man of learning and classical culture, and during his ministry here, lived very unpretentiously, in a small log house near the centre of the present borough of North Wales.

The Rev. Jacob Van Buskirk succeeded him in the care of these congregations in 1793. He came from a prominent family which had emigrated from Holland to America, and settled in Hackensack, N. J. He was educated for the ministry by Muhlenberg, and with the exception of Muhlenberg's sons, was the first native born preacher to receive ordination in the Lutheran Church in America. Van Buskirk made a copy of the Liturgy and the service then in use, with his own hand, and this with another, rather imperfect, made by Peter Muhlenberg—are the only two original copies in existence. Van Buskirk remained pastor of St. John's until 1797, when he retired to a farm which he bought near the present borough of North Wales. He died here suddenly on August 5th, 1800, as he was mounting his horse to go to church, and was buried in the old cemetery at North Wales, near where stood the pulpit of the church in which he had officiated. The inscription on his tomb stone tells us that he had "been in Pennsylvania for 37 years."

Rev. Henry A. Geissenhainer, who followed Rev. Van Buskirk as pastor of these congregations, was born in Rhennish Prussia in 1773 and was educated at Mulheim-am-Rhein, and emigrated to America in 1793 in company with his mother, and elder brother who had been ordained to the ministry. Geissenhainer was but 20 years old when he came to this country, and as there were no theological seminaries in America at the time, he studied for the ministry under his brother, and at a meeting of Synod in Baltimore, owing to the scarcity of Lutheran preachers, he was licensed to preach, instruct catechumens, bap-

tise, perform marriage ceremonies and in case of extreme necessity administer the Lord's Supper. In 1797 he was appointed to serve under the supervision of the pastor of St. Michael's, the charges at Upper Dublin, North Wales and Centre Square. He was ordained to the ministry at a meeting of Synod at Easton, Pa., in 1804. He married Anna Maria Shearer, of Whip-pain, whose father owned a farm and grist mill, the latter still standing near Custer station, and known as "Arp's Mill". Rev. Geissenhainer had four sons and five daughters, and one of his sons, Rev. Augustus Geissenhainer, became prominent as a clergyman in the Lutheran Church.

During Rev. Geissenhainer's ministry here, about 1796, the old pipe organ was installed, and it was dedicated by his brother, Dr. Frederick Geissenhainer. He was taken suddenly ill while visiting a son in Philadelphia, was moved to the home of another son at Trappe, Pa., and by a curious coincidence died in the house in which Muhlenberg breathed his last. He had the unusual distinction of having been carried to his grave by five clergymen and five students of divinity, and stranger still, for some reason not stated, he is said to have been buried in the same grave with his mother who emigrated to this country with him, and who had died just a few years earlier.

Rev. Charles Frederick Wildbahn, D. D., succeeded Dr. Geissenhainer, and a few months after his installation as pastor. he died and was laid to rest in the cemetery back of the church at Centre Square, and the inscription on his tomb stone tells us that he was born in December of 1773, and died Jan. 31st, 1804; he and one of the other pastors of St. John's, i. e. Rev Jacob Van Buskirk, were two of the eight Lutheran clergymen, who with two clergymen of the Reformed Church, (one of the latter having been Rev. M. Schlatter), were privileged to have followed Henry Melchior Muhlenberg to his grave.

It is well worth noticing at this point that Dr. Wildbahn's great-great-grand-son, Heister M. Hanold, of Reading, Pa., hearing that the tombstone marking his ancestor's grave was much in need of attention had the old stone removed and replaced by a beautiful new one.

For a period of two years, from 1804 to 1806, St. John's

again came under the pastoral care of St. Michael's at Germantown, and was served by Solomon and David Shaeffer, sons of Dr. F. B. Shaeffer, who was pastor at that time. These two young men with their two brothers, were students of divinity, and men of wonderful moral and mental qualities, and are said to have possessed great personal attractions, to have labored in season and out of season, in town and in the country, on the Sabbath and during the week, and moreover to have held influential relations to all important movements in and out of the church. Within recent years the Lutheran Church has been greatly benefited financially, by the generous gifts of the descendants of these men, among which gifts were the "Shaeffer-Ashmead Memorial" church at Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary, and the Professor's houses which beautify the seminary grounds.

In 1806 Rev. J. C. Rebanach took charge of the congregations at Centre Square, North Wales and Puff's at Upper Dublin. He remained until 1811 when he was succeeded by the Rev. John Wiand. At the beginning of Rev. Wiand's pastorate, the sister church at Upper Dublin separated from St. Peter's and St. John's. During Rev. Wiand's pastorate St. Peter's built, what was long known as "the yellow church". Rev. Wiand resigned in 1826.

ST. JOHN'S REBUILT

What might well be called the middle period in the history of St. John's at Centre Square had now arrived.

Up to this time, i. e. 1833, the church building, erected in 1773, had served as a place of worship. It stood on a line with the present building, but further back in what is now a part of the cemetery. The late Jackson Miller, who worshiped in it when a boy, described it as having been built of stone, in the same style as the old Barren Hill church, which was two stories high, with a sharp peaked roof surmounted with a small bell tower. The entrance to the church was on a level with the ground: there was a high "wine glass pulpit" in the northwest corner of the building, which was reached by a circular flight of steps, and above the pulpit was the regulation sounding board.

In 1829, St. John's being without a pastor, called Rev. George Heilig to the pulpit. This gentleman being a man of progressive tendencies, and not at all familiar with the financial difficulties attendant upon extravagances indulged in by rural congregation, instituted "a drive" for a new church building; having brought sufficient pressure to bear upon his people in order to gain their approval, even though reluctantly, the old church was torn down and the present structure erected.

Because of its peculiar architectural features, and especially its stepped, or battlemented front and back, and its odd little bell tower, it has always attracted much attention.

By the merest chance we learned quite recently that St. John's was modelled after its mother church, St. Michael's at Germantown, which latter, built in 1819, was torn down and replaced by the present one in 1896. The one point of difference between St. Michael's of 1819 and St. John's of today built in 1834, was, that although it had been the intention of the building committee of the Germantown church to have a bell tower, "because it was a matter of great consequence in the minds of the members, that the bells of the old church should continue by their familiar sounds, to gather the worshipers into the new, an accident occurred in the attempt to remove them for which no calculation had been made; in the midst of the effort to take them down, the bells suddenly fell to the ground and broke; this was so disheartening to the members that the project of building a tower was abandoned." Since however, the plans and specifications called for them, and these plans and specifications were doubtless borrowed by St. John's in 1834, the original plan obtained in the Whitpain church.

The interior of St. John's at the time of its building was also similar to that of St. Michael's, though of course not as elaborate; the pulpit was placed at the back of the church in an alcove, and was reached by two straight flights of stairs, one on each side with eight steps in a flight; the pulpit desk was a panelled box-like affair, and stood between two imposing looking, white painted pillars. This desk was much worn by the hammering it had sustained from a succession of pastors, who either wished to give emphasis to their teachings, or possibly

wake up their congregation. It later "passed out," and the one in use at the present time, the gift of Rev. D. Levin Coleman, a former pastor, took its place. The lecturn and chairs are very old, and the latter were the gift of the great-grand-mother of the late Rev. George D. Faust, who was one-time pastor of the North Wales congregation.

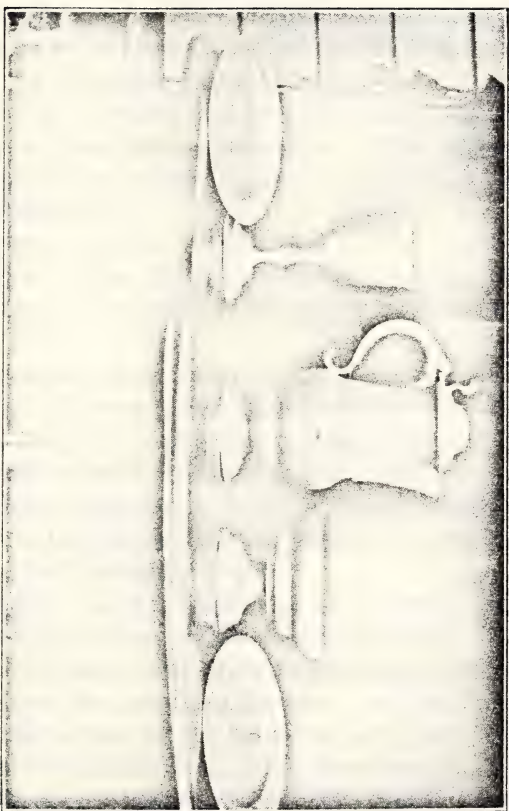
The pews, also modelled after those at St. Michael's were high backed, panelled and painted white, and the seats were narrow, unpainted and uncushioned. Every pew had a door, and when "the meeting was seated," it was customary to shut and latch or button these doors.

While speaking of pews, it might be interesting to note, that as St. John's had now acquired "an up to date" church building, and a progressive pastor, it became necessary to adopt aggressive methods of church work. The first innovation along this line was the introduction of the pew renting system, which divided the congregation into two classes of supporters, "subscribers" and "renters."

Among the latter were the following: Daniel Longacker James Bush, James Preston, Jacob Hallman, Henry Kerr, Jesse Barnes, George Spinner, John Knipe, David Knipe and Shenberger, Hallman and Zearfoss, Mrs. Wack (widow of a Reformed pastor), Levi Miller, George Werkheiser, Henry and Mary Fleck, Dettras and Henry Hallman, Samuel Zearfoss and Werkheisers, John Miller, Adam Kneedler and John Moyer.

The price of these "sittings" varied according to locality, and Daniel Longacker held "the first seat in the synagogue" at \$10 a year, which in that day, and especially in a country church, was such a generous contribution to the church funds, that the man who offered it was in a position to become a church politician.

The church building was heated at this time by two large iron stoves with earthen fire pots which were neatly white-washed every fall at church cleaning time. These stoves stood up front, one on each side of the church, and were used only on Sundays, "high days and holidays," this gave the sexton, (janitors had not arrived in that day), very little opportunity to master the art of heating the church, with the result that the



OLD QUEEN ANNE COMMUNION SERVICE, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

fire pot was either so red-hot that the stove door had to be opened to prevent it from bursting, or, having cooled off, the fire had taken on a fresh supply of fuel, which, owing to the circuitous route taken by the long pipes on their way to the flue, burned so slowly, that "Nunc Dimittis" was in order before a comfortable temperature was established.

On rare occasions, when services were held in the evening the church was lighted by means of oil lamps, the most resplendent of which was a chandelier arrangement suspended from the centre of the ceiling by means of a long iron hoop; this chandelier consisting of four lamps, each set in a brass receptacle from which dangled many colored prisms, was a source of great pride to the congregation.

The pulpit was carpeted, but the rest of the church was bare of covering, excepting the aisles which had a single width of carpet in the centre aisle, while cocoa matting was used in the other aisles.

Polished brass and silver collection plates had not yet been thought of, and the deacons lifted the offerings at this time in little black bags, which were attached to long poles, and made it possible for them to reach from end to end of the pew. The bags were afterward discarded in favor of boxes, velvet lined, into which it was possible with some degree of practice, to throw a penny without being observed.

The communion service, consisting of a flagon, chalice, baptismal bowl and two plates for the communion bread, was of pewter and seems to have come from England at a very early date in the history of the church, as the nearly defaced lettering on the reverse side of one of the plates, which reads "Queen Church,¹ London," would indicate. This pewter service was in constant use at St. John's until 1876, when Mr. Charles Norton, of Philadelphia, who was an attendant at the services here for some years, solicited subscriptions toward the purchase of the silver service now in use. The historic pewter service has now been placed for safe keeping in the Krauth Memorial library, at Mount Airy Theological seminary. Among the other sacred vessels belonging to St. John's is a silver chalice, the gift of St. John's "Messenger", a parish paper which was published over a

1 Queen Anne's Church.—Ed.

period of six years, and always had a balance in the treasury which it used for church purposes. A curious coincidence in connection with this chalice is, that it had been patented by two Lutheran clergymen, whose advanced ideas on making "the common cup" as sanitary as possible led them to spend much time and money on the invention, and one of these men was the Rev. Paul Klinger, pastor at the time of St. Michael's, the mother church of St. John's at Centre Square.

"GROG HILL CHURCH"

It was during the pastorate of Rev. George Heilig, under whose administration the present edifice was erected, in 1834, that St. John's at Centre Square was first spoken of as "the Grog Hill Church."

Tradition says that in 1834 when the old church building was torn down and the present one took its place, the trustees decided to economize on the cost of building by having,—what was then quite customary under like circumstances—i. e. a "building frolic".

With this end in view they of course invited all the men of the congregation, as well as all the men of the neighborhood not members of the church—to help haul sand, stone and lumber, which service it was understood was to be given free of charge.

It goes without saying, however, that a strong incentive to this free contribution of labor was found in the bountiful supply of good things to eat.

Now the gentlemen of the "building frolic" period had never been called upon to vote for "Prohibition", neither had they heard of "the drys"—and so one day during the course of construction they sent one of their number for the refreshment mentioned above. He found it at the "Waggon Inn" down at Centre Square, and being in a hurry to transfer it to the weary toilers on the hill, became careless in attending to details in stowing it for transportation, with the result that as he was driving up the hill toward St. John's the tail board of his wagon slipped its moorings, the barrel of "stuff" rolled out and broke, and the contents ran back down the hill thus giving rise to the name "Grog Hill."

This name applied to the Church was naturally a source of great mortification to many of its members, so the pastor, thinking to overcome the difficulty, had a large sign board put up at the foot of the hill on which was painted in black letters the name CHURCH HILL; this attempted psychological stunt however failed of its intended purpose and the name "Grog Hill" has a periodical revival in the mind of the public.

During the pastorate of Rev. George Heilig, who seemed to know how to build a church but failed to count the cost to his congregation, St. John's became so financially embarrassed that finally being unable to meet the demands made upon it by its creditors, the church building was advertised for sale under "the sheriff's hammer."

The story of the struggle of the church fathers at this period, as recorded in the minutes of the congregation is pathetic, and in the darkest hour when all hope seemed gone two trustees of the congregation, Mr. John Miller, of Jeffersonville, and Mr. Charles Hallman came to the rescue; it has been told that the day before the one set for the Sheriff's sale, these two men together visited every member of the congregation and securing the pledge of each one to stand by them loyally, gave their personal bonds as security for the debts of the congregation and it was not until 1843 that the congregation was able to release these men from the obligation they had assumed in order to free the Church from debt.

In the same year the pastor, Rev. George Heilig, under whose administration the Church had been built, resigned, and a year later received a call to Monroe County, Pa., where he died in 1869.

INNOVATIONS AT ST. JOHNS

Rev. Jacob Medart succeeded Rev. Heilig as pastor at St. John's and St. Peter's (North Wales), and as he was unable to preach in the German language, the services from this time on were almost exclusively English, although occasionally a Sunday afternoon service was held in German, even as late as 1880.

The German element, made up of the oldest members of the congregation, quite naturally lost interest in the church, some of

them going to other churches, all of which was a detriment to the work, resulting in a falling off of membership so pronounced that in 1849 action was taken to "fine the officers 50 cents for non-attendance without good reason," and a motion made and carried, "to have a protracted meeting, (an innovation in Lutheran circles), to be held about the communion season and to last four days."

Rev. John Hassler followed Rev. Mr. Medart at St. John's in 1856. He was a man of genial manners, and the congregation branched out in its activities. The young folks organized a singing school, which was taught by Nicholas Slough, the superintendent of the Sunday school, and that this school was conducive to social intercourse, is evidenced by the fact that in 1864 the minute book of the congregation contains a record stating that the singing schools of the Trappe and other places had asked permission to come to St. John's "to give a concert for their own benefit."

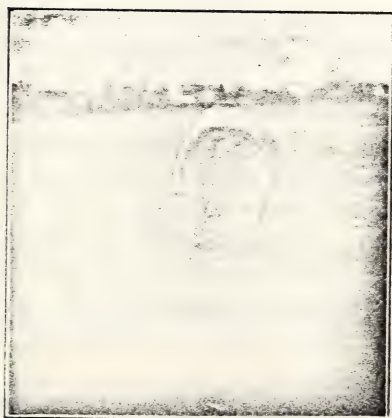
About this time the women of the congregation began to assert themselves in the affairs of the church, and the late Charles Hallman, then a member of the vestry, by espousing the woman's movement, immortalized himself for gallantry by assuring his associates that "the ladies of the congregation, feeling an interest in the comfort of the congregation, have volunteered to collect money for blinds for the windows." Having thus gained a footing in church activities, they finally worked their way through fairs, and festivals, with the assistance of brass bands and other fetching attractions, to a point where the men of the congregation, finding them indispensable in working the financial interests of the church, were moved to draft an amendment to the constitution giving them the right to vote.

During his pastorate here, Rev. Mr. Hassler, who was a bachelor, married Miss Abbie Bolieu, of Centre Square. At the beginning of the Civil war, Rev. Mr. Hassler was called to the post of army chaplain, and his resignation was accepted with much regret, as is shown by the tribute of respect spread upon the minutes of the congregation.

From 1862 to 1867, covering the period of the Rebellion, Rev. Peter Rightmeyer served the congregation. During his



ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY. Centre Square, Pa.



OLD MILESTONE IN THE VICINITY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Erected about 1764

ministry St. John's was fortunate in receiving a legacy of about \$6000 from the estate of John Boyer, of Norristown, and another from the estate of Nicholas Slough, and the interest from the latter, according to a provision in the will, has for more than half a century, been used, part toward the pastor's salary, part toward Sunday school work and part toward the cause of foreign missions.

In 1865 the congregation purchased the lot above, and adjoining the church, from George Dotts. This purchase was made for two reasons; first, because the old cemetery was too small, and second, because the time had come when it was necessary to have a sexton near the church.

The house on this lot was built of logs and dated back to pre-Revolutionary days, and served the purpose for which it was bought until 1883 when it was torn down and the present one built at a cost of \$740.00 while the stable on the same lot was built for \$119.85. We take pleasure in quoting these figures, because as over against present prices they are interesting.

Jacob Zearfoss was the first regularly appointed sexton on record, and he lived in the old log house rent free, and received \$4 a year for his services at the church. "A white Christmas and a fat graveyard" were an additional source of income. Even this was modified and regulated by the trustees, who ruled that he could "not charge more than \$2 for digging the grave of an adult, and from 75 cents to \$1.50 for infants and minors, according to the size, and \$2.50 for a grave with double coffins."

The first cemetery which adjoined the present parsonage lot at the rear and extended to a line with the sheds in time became so crowded that in 1841 the vestry decided to sell lots, a lot nine feet long and as wide as desired to cost the purchaser 25 cents a square foot. Later, however, this price was advanced to \$2 a front foot. The first deeds on record for cemetery lots were granted to John Miller, of Jeffersonville, and Henry Kerr, of Whitpain.

It will be remembered that after the defeat of the American forces at the battle of Germantown, Washington's army was compelled to retreat into Whitpain and on up to Pennypacker's mill. On that occasion Boehm's, St. John's and the Bethel

churches were used as military hospitals, and many soldiers dying at the time were buried in the cemeteries adjoining. One of the former sextons at St. John's told us recently, that some years ago he discovered in the old part of the grave yard close to the Longacker monument, a spot which judging from certain findings, seemed to have been a trench grave". Just beyond the monument are the graves of George Gossinger and George Berkheimer, two of the men who helped to build the church of 1773. Close by these is the grave of Rev. Charles Wildbahn, D. D., one of the early pastors of the church.

There is something distinctly characteristic about the old cemetery which has a peculiar appeal. Here is found the granite shaft and the marble sarcophagus, elsewhere the tall mossgrown headstone of a century ago, containing on its inscribed front an exhaustive appeal, a veritable "sermon in stone" yonder the old-time pretentious marble slab, with its marble base, its marble columns and its monogram inscription; and then in a far corner under the shadow of the stone wall, and in the protective shade of the ancient trees, lie the poor and nameless dead.

As in all other historic grave-yards, one finds curious epitaphs showing the peculiar sentiments with which surviving relatives regarded death and the great future.

One which we call to mind is indeed quite arresting in its admonition to the passer by, and is as follows:

"Reader be wise, what thou readest here of me,
Others soon will read of thee."

Another, that of Christian Moser, is very noticeable, and the stone, conspicuous for its size, contains the following inscription:

"Christian Moser, an American Patriot and Soldier, who periled life and fortune in the eventful struggle of the Revolution to secure the Independence and Liberties of America. He personally shared in the sanguinary conflict at the Paoli Massacre and the taking of Stoney Point and was also in the Battle of Germantown and in several other engagements during the Revolutionary war. After an exemplary life of 83 years, 10 months and 12 days, he was called from this Sublunary Sphere Dec. 1830."

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,
By all their country's wishes blest."

As though a perpetual reminder of Him, the Supreme Master, under whose banner the church is enlisted, are two graves marked by stones surmounted by crosses. They are the graves of Ephraim H. Shearer and Mrs. Mary Shearer-Beck.

Among the names most commonly found here, (i. e. of pioneer families), are: Longaker, Boyer, Hallman, Zearfoss, Hoffman, Berkheimer, Lowens, Kibblehouse, Fetzer, Trexler, Lightkop, Clemens, Deem, Lutz, Knipe, Beideman, Moser, Cowden, Markley, Gouldy, Weber, Sheneberger, Miller, Werkheiser, and Needler.

The sextons on record as having served St. John's were Jacob Zearfoss, Thomas Lowens, Adam Frantz, Aaron Abbot, Joseph Abbot, Howard Beyer, George Slingluff, H. Hunsberger and Theophilus Fry.

In the early days the sexton's duties did not include cleaning the church. This was done thoroughly once a year by the women of the congregation, who came on the job equipped with brushes and brooms, buckets and baskets, filled with good things to eat, so that their labors might be lightened in anticipation of a "social interlude" at the noon hour.

In 1869, however, the vestry ruled that the sexton, in return for a small remuneration should work the organ bellows.

The side and singing galleries remained in the church until last year, (1919), when they were removed; the old pipe organ, an unusual possession for a country congregation a century ago, occupied a place in the singing gallery, (sometimes called "the organ loft,") and this organ purchased about 1798, had, of course, seen service in the old church, and according to the records of the congregation, had cost \$525.88½, and had been paid for in English money.

The key-board of this old organ was very odd, having had the natural keys black and the sharps and flats white, and the writer of this history whose privilege it was to have presided at this old instrument for several years, can testify, that so confusing was the reversal of the rule in its building, that it was far safer to play "by faith" than by "sight." It became suddenly

and hopelessly silent at a Sunday morning service in 1888, and later was taken down, and its several parts sold at auction to members of the congregation, to be kept as "souvenirs."

The congregation at once appointed a committee of three, Dr. S. C. Seiple, V. H. Baker, Esq., and Clara A. Beck, to go to Bethlehem, Pa., to decide upon the merits of an organ which had been offered to St. John's by the Roman Catholic church of that place. This committee was most cordially received by Father McEnroe, the then priest of the parish and treated to a private musicale in demonstration of the value of the instrument. As the Catholics had just finished a fine new Cathedral and had found the organ lacking in "capacity," they offered it to the committee for \$250, and as it had been in use but 25 years, and St. John's need was great and its funds limited, the organ came over to the Protestant church, was properly dedicated and is now thoroughly Lutheranized. This organ began its career at St. John's in the singing gallery and was later moved to the alcove back of the pulpit and was recently placed for the third time to its present position at the right side of the pulpit.

We regret not being able to find the names of the early organists, but since 1865 the following persons have served in that capacity and all of them have been paid organists: Anna Rightmeyer, (daughter of the pastor), J. D. Heebner, Anna Walker, Ida Baker, Lizzie Beideman, Walter Bauman, Kate Bevan, Clara Beck, Emma Bevan, John Pfeiger, Minnie Seiple, Katie Bird, Mary Gouldy, Susan Michael, Linford Katz and Anna Beideman, (now Mrs. Elwood Righter), the present organist, who has long and faithfully performed this duty in this church which her forefathers helped to found.

The church records give no data at all concerning choir leaders, probably because they never drew upon the treasury, but for many years Jonathan Baker led the choir, and when he laid down the baton his son Victor H. Baker Esq., took it up, and when he stepped down and out, he also left a son in the choir to help keep up the good work.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. E. L. Reed, who accepted a call as successor to Rev. Mr. Rightmeyer that St. John's at Centre Square and St. Peter's at North Wales decided

to separate, and in 1870 they became independent parishes, with Rev. Mr. Reed pastor at North Wales and Rev. H. Bickle, D. D., of Philadelphia, pastor of St. John's; during his pastorate the clerical robe and bands were worn for the first time in this church.

In the early history of the church the congregation did not need a parsonage, as the pastors either lived in Germantown, North Wales or in their own homes, as was the case with Rev. Mr. Van Buskirk and Rev. Geisenhainer; in 1870 however the vestry decided to buy a parsonage as Rev. Mr. Bickel preferred living in the parish, and Dr. S. C. Seiple and the late E. H. Shearer, Esq., were authorized to purchase the property adjoining and just below the present parsonage, and this committee was allowed by the vestry to secure it if possible for \$6000. At that time it belonged to the Osborne estate. These gentlemen, however, bought it for \$5000, and later when Rev. D. Levin Coleman came as pastor and bought his own home in the village, they sold it to Mr. Jeremiah Frantz, for \$5000, reserving however one acre of ground.

Rev. David Levin Coleman, of Easton, Pa., accepted a call to St. John's in 1875, and remained till 1881. During his pastorate here he opened a school for young men and women desiring to prepare for college. This school known as "The Centre Square Seminary", was well patronized. After Rev. Coleman's resignation, the church remained without a pastor for almost a year, during which time the interior of the church was thoroughly repaired.

Rev. Henry Strodach, who had been pastor of the German Lutheran church at Norristown, was installed pastor of St. John's in 1881, and remained little more than a year: He received and accepted a call to Brooklyn, N. Y. He died at Reading in Jan. 1900. Rev. David Levin Coleman, accepted a second call to St. John's in 1884, and remained until 1888, when he took a charge in Doylestown, Pa. He died suddenly, in July 1904, at his home in Easton, Pa.

In June of the year 1889, Rev. James C. N. Park, of Rural Retreat, West Virginia, was called to become pastor of St. John's Church at Centre Square, Pa.

He was of southern birth, a graduate of Roanoke college, and this was his first charge. Soon after coming here he was married, and as the congregation had sold the old parsonage, it became necessary to either buy or build another, and it was finally decided to build the present one on the lot adjoining the church, which had been reserved for this emergency.

Many years previous to this time, Mr. John Boyer, of Norristown, Pa., had willed something like \$6000.00 to the congregation, and it was decided to use part of this bequest for the new parsonage. At the present time when building operations have reached the top-notch price, it is interesting to learn that this beautiful and commodious parsonage erected in 1890, cost the congregation \$2885, at which figure the contract for building was awarded to George W. Frantz, of Centre Square, Pa.

In this connection we wish to say that this seems to have been the third parsonage owned by the congregation, and in support of this contention we quote from an old assessment paper lying on our desk the following:—"Lands owned by the German Lutheran Congregation of the neighborhood on the 1st day of April, 1815, lying and being in the fourth district of Penn'a., viz:—In the township of Whitpain, in the County of Montgomery, one parsonage farm, adjoining the Skippack Road, containing 75 acres, and having thereon one dwelling house, stone, two stories in height, 35 feet in length by 20 feet in depth; also one barn, stone, 40 feet in length by 26 feet." It is to be assumed that the congregation must have bought this property in the very early years of its existence, as there are no deeds of record in Norristown, and therefore they are probably to be found, among early land purchases, in City Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. James C. N. Park, who was the first pastor to occupy the new parsonage, remained with the congregation five years, when he resigned to accept a call to Beaver Falls, Pa. He died at his home, Indiana, Pa., in 1921.

Rev. Charles C. Snyder was the next pastor. At the beginning of his pastorate, in 1894, the congregation which was now 125 years old, decided to have "A Silver Jubilee" in commemoration of its founding. This was held on Sept. 5th, 1894, and

the members of the committee on arrangements were:—V. H. Baker, Esq., Dr. S. C. Seiple, James M. McClellan, Miss Ella Moser and Miss Clara A. Beck.

Cards of invitation were sent to all members, to the descendants of former members, to all the former pastors, to neighboring congregations and to the general public.

The day set for the important event was bright and sunny, and it was estimated that nearly 2000 people were present during the services, many coming from distant towns and cities who had not visited the old church for years, thus making the occasion one of happy reunion.

Five of the 17 pastors who had served the congregation at various periods were still living, and all were present to take part in the services which lasted the entire day and evening. The morning sermon was preached by Rev. James C. N. Park; the afternoon sermons, by Rev. H. Strodach, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Dr. John Hassler, of Lancaster, Pa., and the evening sermons by Rev. E. L. Reed, of Lancaster, Pa., and Rev. D. Levin Coleman, of Easton, Pa.

The history of the church written by Miss Clara A. Beck, was read by Rev. C. C. Snyder. Among visiting clergy was Rev. Matthias Sheeleigh, D. D., of Fort Washington, Pa., known as "The Poet Laureate of the Lutheran Church in America," who read a poem which he had written in honor of this particular occasion.

Refreshments were served on the lawn of the church, by the ladies of the congregation, to whoever was willing to accept their hospitality, and the day, one long to be remembered, passed into history as one of great rejoicing.

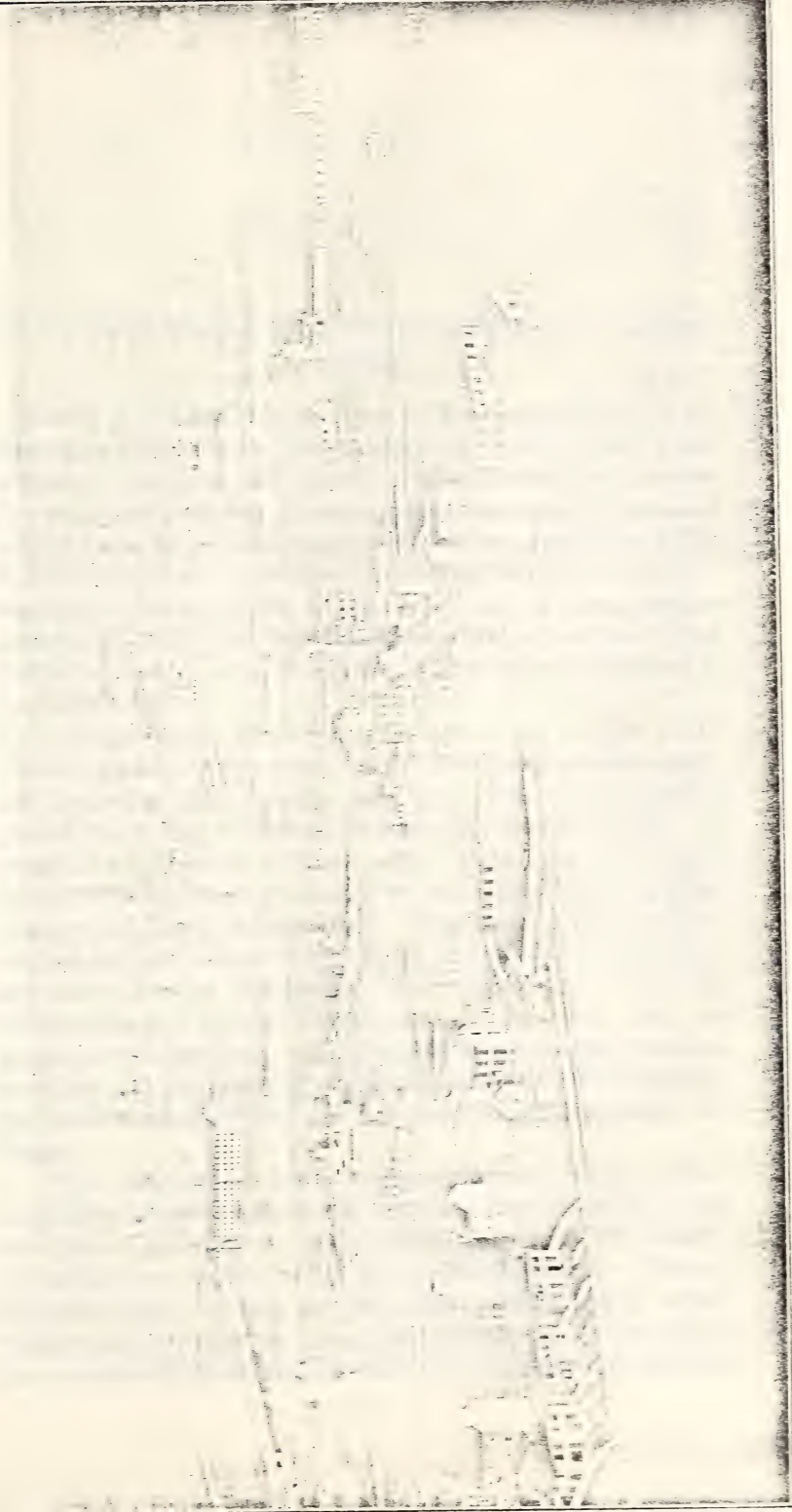
At the end of Rev. C. C. Snyder's pastorate, Rev. Jeremiah Ritter, of Bath, Pa., accepted a call to the Centre Square congregation, coming in June, 1904, and remaining until June, 1911, when he took charge of the "Home of the Good Shepherd" at Allentown, Pa.

Rev. Theodore Hoffmeister was next called as pastor, taking charge of the congregation Nov. 12th, 1911, and resigning in October of 1915 to accept a call to Long Island, N. Y.

Rev. Frederick F. Haworth succeeded Rev. Mr. Hoffmeister

as pastor, coming to St. John's directly from the theological seminary at Mt. Airy, Pa. He was a student of exceptional ability, and had gained quite a reputation for his gifts along the line of study in the art of ecclesiastical architecture. During his pastorate the church at Centre Square was remodeled, and although it was absolutely necessary to change the interior of the church, to provide room for growing Sunday school, Rev. Mr. Haworth's sense of historic values, were such that, the plans and specifications which he drew up for the contractor, made it possible to retain the Colonial character of the exterior of the building which remained practically unchanged, and the work as done, is especially commendable in view of the fact that St. John's organized a century and a half ago, stands in line with the Trappe and other colonial churches of the country, the state and the country at large.

During Rev. Mr. Haworth's pastorate (in 1919) the congregation celebrated the 150th anniversary, called "The 150th Jubilee", which in the character of its exercises was very similar to "The Silver Jubilee" of 25 years earlier. In 1920 Rev. Mr. Haworth accepted a call to Baden, Pa., where, beside serving a rapidly growing congregation he is taking a special course of study at the University of Pittsburgh.



NORRISTOWN AT MID-AGE 1912-15

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF NORRISTOWN

March 31st, 1812, was the date of the incorporation of the Borough of Norristown, Montgomery Co., Penna., when it was officially created by the signing of the Charter by Governor Snyder, and it is fitting, therefore that its centenary be observed with due and proper recognition and with ceremonial and public rejoicing and thus pay tribute and honor to those persons identified with its struggles and triumphs; and also to commemorate those events in the life, civic development and expansion of what is now reputed to be the largest and most prosperous Borough in the United States.

After elaborate preparations the ceremonies incident to the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the town was consummated; and beginning with Sunday, May 5th, 1912, they covered a period of six days and closed on Saturday, May 11th, 1912. A program of unusual brilliance with bright days and balmy weather—brought great success to the celebration and great numbers of people to Norristown. Not only were the citizens of the town out in force, but from all parts of the country came the native sons of Montgomery, and thousands of interested visitors—to pay homage in the home reunion and enjoy the gaieties of the occasion. A brief recital of the leading events of each day and the principal participants therein will summarize the week's program and are set down here as a matter of record.

"The Anniversary Week" began on Sunday, May 5th, 1912, with appropriate devotions and historical sermons in all of the churches of Norristown. It is notable that Dr. L. W. Hainer, of the Calvary Baptist Church, preached from the text—"Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." This, found in Psalm 127-1, and according to the reports of the day—expressed the dominant note of that Sabbath day, and the

keynote of the festival that followed. The official proceedings opened on the morning of Monday, May 6th, at the City Hall where the Reception Committee received, with due courtesy the Hon. John K. Tener, Governor of Pennsylvania, and staff, Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg, Mayor of Philadelphia and his party and other distinguished guests. Nicholas H. Larzelere, Esq., presided at the public meeting which followed and Burgess Lattimore, of Norristown, made the formal welcoming address. He was followed by the addresses of Governor Tener, Mayor Blankenburg, and Judge Aaron S. Swartz, of the Montgomery County courts. The City Hall, all public buildings and institutions, business houses and private residences—were beautifully and tastefully decorated with flags, bunting and other manifestations of the holiday spirit—in honor of the Centennial and its distinguished visitors. In the afternoon there was a parade of several thousand Public and Parochial School children, marshalled by Mr. Louis N. McCarter, president of the School Board.

Tuesday, May 7th, was devoted to a parade of the Civic organizations, lodges, clubs and other social bodies. The demonstration was of fine spirit and effect, and successfully carried out.

Wednesday, May 8th, was the day allotted to the display of the town's industrial forces; and the parade, of which Mr. Adam Scheidt was the Chief Marshall was filled with a numerous, extensive and instructive exposition of the Borough's manufacturing and commercial interests.

Thursday, May 9th, was "Fireman's Day". Justice of the Peace, Oliver F. Lenhardt, was the Chief Marshall, assisted by Theodore Lane Bean, Esq. This was the largest parade of firemen ever held in this county, no less than 72 companies, including the local men—were in line, many had their own apparatus—resplendant with decorations and accompanied by numerous brass bands. The procession, vivid in uniforms and shining engines—made a memorable impression as it moved along the route—which was not covered until very late in the day.

Friday, May 10th.—The climax of the week's manifesta-

tions of tribute was undoubtedly reached in the "Historical Pageant". Thousands of enthusiastic participants labored secretly or otherwise—to produce the most novel features in depicting the march of civilization in this valley through the centuries to the glorious achievements of this day. This brilliant scheme was conceived, organized and directed by Rev. Theodore Heysham, Ph.D., a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County. The program comprised five divisions with Samuel Roberts, also a member of the above Society—as Grand Captain, who was assisted by Mr. J. Frank Boyer and Mr. Oliver F. Lenhardt. Each division had several scenes, or episodes—representing the Indians and early inhabitants; the Dutch, Swedish, Welsh and English Quakers; Germans and Scotch-Irish settlers; etc.

The Great Divisions were led by the following citizens:

Division A. Chief Marshall, Dr. Albert R. Garner, assisted by Mr. Chas W. Walker and Mr. Lewis Y. Smith.

Division B. Chief Marshall Mr. J. Clarence Moyer. Assts Mr. Percy J. Fell and Mr. Wm. A. March.

Colonials representing Norriton and depicting the log-cabins, "Indian Trails", "Trappers and Hunters", "Trading Posts", "The Norris and Trent Purchase", "The Public Sale of the Norriton Plantation", "Settlement of the Strife between the Fishermen and the Boatmen", "Location of the Court House", "The Presentation, by the College of Philadelphia, of the Court House Lot", and "The Fete at President William Moore Smith's home".

Division C. Chief Marshall, Mr. H. B. Tyson, assisted by Mr. James Cresson and G. Carroll Hoover, Esq.

Its features were—"The War of the Revolution", "The Spirit of '76", "British Soldiers", "French Allies" &c. &c.

Division D. Chief Marshall, J Ambler Williams, Esq., assistants—Dr. Henry C. Welker and Mr. Thomas H. Livezey.

Depicting "The War of 1812", "Its Effect on the Community", "Governor Snyder Signing the Charter", "Oath of the first President of the Council", "The Pat Lyon Fire Engine", "Woman's Suffrage", "Churches and Education", "Establishment of St. John's Episcopal Church in 1813", "The First Pres-

byterian Church in 1815", "The First Baptist Church in 1833", "Old Ironsides," the first locomotive that ran into Norristown on the completion of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad, August 13, 1835"; and "The Mexican War Period."

Division E. Chief Marshall, Mr. Howard A. Simpson, assisted by Mr. Wm. L. Jarrett and Mr. Wallace C. Hitner. The Rebellion—"The Spirit of '61", "Responding to the Call", "Departure of the first Troops", "Abolition", "The Grand Army of the Republic", "Spanish-American War."

The Pageant then ends with a tableaux of "The Holy-City" in which is spiritually depicted the coming period of Peace and Good-Will, Friendship and Brotherly Love.

On the evening of this day, at the City Hall, a banquet was given to the prominent visitors, principal participants in the celebration, and members of the town's civic and patriotic organizations. Theodore Lane Bean, Esq., presided as toastmaster at this most agreeable function. After an invocation given by Rev. Theo. Heysham, Ph.D., and the reading of a poem written by Eliza Cruger—entitled—"The Aloe-Age of Norristown"—the following toasts were given and responded to:—

"The State" by Former Governor, Hon. Samuel Pennypacker.

"The County" by Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

"The Borough" by Irvin P. Knipe, Esq.

"The Town of Norris" by Mr. Chas. N. Rambo, a lineal decendant of the Norris'.

"The Historical Society" by Mr. Samuel Gordon Smyth, Vice-president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County

"Valley Forge" by Rev. W. Herbert Burk.

Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania was also present and made an address on behalf of the University.

During the same evening the parade of the Mardi-Gras was given, led by Miss Alice Meeh who was chosen "Queen of the Carnival".

In the morning of that day, exercises, under the auspices

of the Historical Society of Montgomery County were held in the Grand-Opera House with Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Beeber, Vice-president of the Society, presiding. Interspersed by a musical program—addresses were made by Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Society and others.

Saturday, May 11th, was "Military Day" and it was the concluding feature of the week's celebration. Dr. J. K. Weaver was the Chief Marshall and on his staff were—Adj. Gen. Thomas J. Stewart, Major Gen. C. B. Dougherty and Gen. John W. Schall—all of the National Guard of Penna. The parade including representative battalions of the National Guard, Veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, Sons of Veterans, independent military organizations and other visiting soldiers and sailors, and cadets from several military academies. The Second Troop, Phila. City Cavalry, under command of Captain Chas. Welsh Edmunds were among the visitors. The military paraded in three divisions and was reviewed by the Chief Marshall and his Staff from the stand in front of the City Hall. Thus were honors paid to the heroic Sons of Montgomery County, among whom were Major-General Winfield Scott Hancock—"The Superb"; General and Former Governor—John F. Hartranft, and General Zook.

The Centennial proceedings throughout have been chronologically arranged, described and memorialized by the Rev. Theodore Heyshem, Ph.D., of Norristown, in a limited edition of fine cloth bound volumes entitled "Norristown-1812-1912". These books, besides being descriptive and illustrative of the events of "Anniversary Week"—are serving a useful and beneficent mission by teaching and popularizing local history in being used as a text book in the Public Schools. And that a pictorial record might be preserved of the celebration for the benefit and instruction of future generations of descendants of the actors and visitors of those days—Dr. Heysham has gathered together about 250 photographs of historical scenes, public buildings and prominent persons identified, or connected with this memorable occasion; these are contained in a handsomely

bound album now in the library of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

INVOCATION

By REV. W. HERBERT BURK

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we, Thine unworthy servants--do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy Goodness, particularly to those of us who have been identified with this borough in its history and its life.

And Lord, we thank Thee for Thy Good Providence that Thou hast seen fit in the past to plant here those who shall give in their lives their best of thought; their best of service.

We praise Thee for notable men and women who have built up the life not only of this community but of the state in which they lived. We bless Thee for the part which they have taken in national affairs, and we thank Thee for Thy Wise Providence, for the blessing of prosperity; for the large hearted devotion to Thee and Thy service which have marked the history of this place in the past.

We implore Thy blessing upon the future—that day by day the citizens here shall seek Thee more and more to do Thy Will, and to render Thee service; that more and more there may develop in the hearts of the people of our country a love for Thee and for this great land and the institutions with which we have been blessed; and O Lord, grant that the next century may be more full of achievement, more full of glory, and more full of blessing.

And above all, put into the hearts of Thy People the understanding of Thee and of Thy ways that in seeking all else in this world they may seek Thee and Thy Glory and Thy Peace.

All these things we ask in the Name of Thee, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Programme of Exercises

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of Norristown

Held by the

Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa.
Valley Forge Chapter, Daughters of the American
Revolution

Civic Club of Norristown

Friday Morning, May 10th, 1912

AT 10 O'CLOCK

AT GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Norristown, Pa.

Presiding Officer:

REV. THOMAS R. BEEBER, D.D.,

Vice President of Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa.

Music—"America" Orchestra

Music—"Hail Columbia" Orchestra

Invocation Rev. W. Herbert Burk, Valley Forge

Music—"Stars and Stripes Forever" Orchestra

Address of Welcome Rev. Thomas R. Beeber, D.D.

Music—"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" Orchestra

Music—"Hail to the Chief" Orchestra

Historical Address Hon. S. W. Pennypacker

President of Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Music—Medley Orchestra

Historical Address—"The Montgomery County Court House in

1850" Joseph Fornance

President of Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa.

Music—"Star Spangled Banner" Orchestra

COMMITTEE

MRS. H. H. FISHER, Chairman.

Joseph Fornance, President of Historical Society of Montgomery
County, Pa.

Mrs. F. I. Nalle, Regent of Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R.

Mrs. I. P. Knipe, President of the Civic Club of Norristown.

Miss Emeline Henry Hooven

Mrs. George R. Kite

Mrs. J. K. Weaver

Mrs. John T. Dyer

Mrs. Mary G. Bloom

Mrs. Hugh McInnes

Mrs. Joseph Fornance

Miss Frances M. Fox

Miss Katherine Preston

Miss Isabel G. Ralston

Miss Lillian Childs

Mrs. W. H. Reed

Hon. H. W. Kratz

Rev. Thomas R. Beeber, D. D.

Theo. Lane Bean, Esq.

Dr. W. H. Reed

William Summers

William H. Weber

Albrecht Kneule

The doors of the Opera House will be open at 9 o'clock.
Music from 9 to 10 by the orchestra.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

By Rev. Thos. R. Beeber, D. D.

It is a pleasure I very gratefully appreciate which the Committee on the Program for this morning has given to me, in asking me to preside at this meeting and to give you the address of welcome on behalf of the Civic Club of our town, on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and on behalf of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

The law of chemical affinity that binds these societies together is the law of unity in their aims, in their purposes and in their spirit.

It is the aim of the Civic Club to make our town beautiful, worthy of its past and prophetic of the better things of the future.

It is the aim of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the Historical Society of Montgomery County to gather together and to preserve the glory of our ancestors, and the greatness of the deeds through which they have done so much to shape the life of the nation and of this community; and I think it is a fitting time for us to emphasize the worth of the work that we are trying to do and the greatness of our opportunities.

Our country is very rich in its historic interest as you all know. Our hills have echoed to the tread of the Army of the Revolution; our old-time farm-houses and inns are filled with recollections of its distinguished Commander; our ancient burial-places are indeed the "sepulchres of the illustrious dead", and our noble river is ever chanting a solemn requiem to their memory; while the hills of Valley Forge have been consecrated for all time by the men whose fortitude in meeting suffering was not surpassed even by their courage upon the field of battle.

In after years when the life of this nation which these brave men died to save was at stake, our country was rich in men and women who went forth to risk their lives that the nation might live, men who came to eminence and immortal fame in

connection with the battles of the Civil War and in connection with the hospital service.

The memories of our Zook and our Hartranft and our Hancock, and our Holstein, Chief Matron of the Hospital of the Second Corps at Gettysburg, ministering elsewhere to the needs of the sick and the broken soldiers with a loving and a tender hand, the memories of these men and of women like Mrs. Holstein have come down to us, and have made our county one of the most sacred places in our whole land.

It is altogether fitting that we should cherish these memories and put them upon the historic page for all time. We should appreciate our inheritance in this county. Its earth and its water and its skies greet us at every turn with the rich and inspiring memories of great deeds and of heroic personalities.

Then again, it seems to me that we all ought to emphasize to-day for just a moment the deep-seated and wide-spreading historic instinct in which our societies are planted.

All the associations of this week are founded upon this historic instinct. Whether they realized it or not, the men who shaped our program for the week were moved by this instinct. They were moved by it when they asked the churches to inaugurate the services with a Religious Day, for they realized the part that the Christian men and women have had in developing this community. They were moved by this instinct when they arranged these different pageants which have filled our streets with scenes in vital contrast to the equipment of to-day.

A single illustration will suffice. The procession of the children last Monday afternoon with those interesting costumes and floats which brought back the past—the Continental uniforms and dresses, the Rural School of 1812, Uncle Sam, the Red, White and Blue parasols, the Minute Men, Betsy Ross and her Flag, the Colonial Dames and Pilgrim Fathers, the Landing of Columbus, and the Arrival of the Swedes, the Irish, the Germans and the Quakers, the Evolution of the American Flag—all those interesting and impressive scenes portrayed by the pupils of our high school and our parochial school, under all these scenes ran this historic instinct.

Let us appreciate this heritage of our county. Let us hold fast to it, and let us remember that deep down in the heart of every man as we have been emphasizing in these services that are now drawing to a close, there lies this historic instinct coming to the surface from time to time, welling up out of the depths whenever men set themselves to deep and sober thought, to the cherishing of memories, and to seeking to discover the forces that have given strength and impetus to our Nation, our Commonwealth and our Community.

We of these societies have more friends than we realize; every man who loves his country and its institutions and honors its flag is our ally and our friend.

Let us appreciate their help and let us rely on them for sympathy and support.

INTRODUCTION

By Rev. Thomas R. Beeber, D. D.

It is our very great profit to have with us the first speaker of the morning.

As a young man a member of the 26th Emergency Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers that fought the first skirmish with the Confederate Invaders in 1863, just a week before the Battle of Gettysburg, and as one who in his retreat along with the others, pressed by overwhelming numbers suffered such hardships as might well break down a veteran of the Army of the Potomac; a man in after years an able attorney in yonder city, occupying with increasing fame the distinguished position of a Judge of one of its courts, afterwards holding the highest official position which it is in the power of his fellow-citizens of the Commonwealth to bestow, and while Governor instituting a movement that lifted our patriotic associations of Valley Forge out of the limited embodiment which the local society could give, and making them the sacred memories of the whole state; a man who has been a student of and who is now the acknowledged authority on the historic facts connected with the life of our county; a man whose attainment in scholarship and in the lore of his profession have won him recognition in the

honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from two of the highest literary institutions of the state, and who is now the President of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, one of the two great historical societies of our land—I assure you I have the very great personal pleasure, and I esteem it a very high honor to present to you the orator of our day, the Honorable Samuel W. Pennypacker, L.L.D.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

By HON. SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, L.L.D.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

When the invitation of your committee to be present here to-day was accepted, it was upon the condition that I should not be expected to write an address.

I feel quite sure that finding you impressed with the great success of these demonstrations up to this time and inspired by the beautiful decorations of your town, and thankful for the blue skies and the bright sun of today, you will not be at all critical, and I shall therefore venture to philosophize and talk about your history without any written paper, and with the feeling that it has this advantage at least—that when I grow tired, or, what is of more consequence, when I see that you have grown tired, I may bring it to a conclusion.

Men are of importance not at all as individuals, but by what they represent. This is likewise true of a community.

Norristown is of comparatively recent origin, and if you were to look over its streets and see what its people were doing you would probably find that it differed very little from many other communities throughout the world.

It is of little consequence really to know what is located at the corner of Main and DeKalb Streets, but when we stop to figure how that building got there, what it means, what is its significance, what are the forces which for countless ages made it possible, then it is an interesting thing indeed: and Norristown represents a county, is the county town and the center of population of a region which is classic and historic.

It appears to be a law of nature that the blending of allied stocks always leads to vital activities. A botanist will take an ordinary Johnny-Jump-Up and by his process will presently produce for you the Pansy with all its brilliant colors of purple and of yellow. The breeder will take the ordinary Rock Pigeon and in the same way, following the same law of blending he presently brings to you the Carrier and the Pouter and all those different breeds of birds which have impressed the fancier.

Now this law is just as true when applied to man as it is in the other realms of nature. If you look at the civilizations as they have arisen in the past of the world you will see that it has always been the result of the blending of the different races.

In Egypt, the Nile River bringing down in the Spring the fertile earth from above and scattering it over the bank made a very rich agricultural country, and the result of it was that from both sides of the Nile and from across the Red Sea the peoples flocked to that valley, and that intermingling of blood presently made the civilization of Egypt.

The same is true of Greece. Greece was a peninsula with a coast in which there were many bays which afforded opportunities for commerce. This attracted people from the surrounding lands, and presently you had the civilization of Greece, in some respects the most remarkable in the world. It was true of Rome where the Etruscans intermingled their blood and the same is true of England, that greatest of civilizations where the blood of Celt and Saxon and Norman was intermingled..

If this be a correct diagnosis of the situation, then Montgomery County ought to be, and is, one of the most ideally situated of all the counties, containing the people of the earth.

Down in the eastern part of the county in the early days came the English Quakers. Nicholas Ford took up a large tract of land and brought the settler there. Nicholas Ford was a physician and he became one of the Chief Justices of the Commonwealth. In those days they were not particular to draw very strict professional lines; and if my friend Dr. Weaver had lived at that time, he too might have been a Chief Justice. But there were the English Quakers, and down in the eastern end of your county came the Welsh.

In the early time the Saxon pouring into England drove away the Celts who had occupied the island. They found refuge in the mountain regions, and in the hills of Scotland, and some in the hilly region of Wales; and some of these people who came to Gwynedd and along the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad were the descendants of those Celts.

Up on the Skippack came Henrich Pennebacker and Matthias Van Bebber, wealthy Dutch merchants who brought to that region the Dutchmen of my people who settled along the Skippack. These people brought with them the form of worship of the Mennonites which has the most romantic interest of all Christian sects. There were more Mennonites burned to death in the City of Antwerp alone than there were of all Christians of all sects who were put to death in all England in the days of Bloody Mary; and this type of people were along the Skippack.

At Towamencin came the Silesians, the Schwenkfelders, followers of Kaspar Schwenkfeld, and speaking only incidentally about them I may say to you, having neither association by blood nor by any other ties, they were the most interesting people who came to settle in this great country. One thing they did when they reached Philadelphia on September 24, 1734, they set that day apart as a day on which to give thanks to the Lord on their escape from persecution. You have heard of many sects coming to New England and elsewhere who had come because of the persecution abroad, but this sect was the only one of them who showed their appreciation of what the Lord had done for them, and the first Thanksgiving Day was on the twenty-fourth of September, 1734.

And then, a little further north, in Hanover, Frederick and those townships—were the Dunkards who came from the Palatinate and Switzerland, the Stauffers and the Wangers; and in Limerick were the Irish and the Scotch-Irish, so you see what a blending of different places and of different races there were in your county, and the people of your town who live in Norristown now, and who manage your banks and run your trolley lines and conduct your stores and your institutions are the descendants of these people whose vigor and knowledge and ac-

tivity represent the strength which has come from blending together those different strains which make one strong race.

Norristown—in the beginning of its record—starts with the most important man who had ever been connected with the affairs of this great Commonwealth. This was William Penn himself, a lawgiver, a philanthropist, a man who gathered the Quakers together and who to a great extent made them what they were.

He, looking over this Province of his, having a son named for him, selected for him a location which in his judgment would be the most suitable for that son. It is complimentary to you that having his whole Province from which to make the selection his choice was the land which has since become your town.

Here he set up a Manor of ten thousand acres. He intended it for his son William and he gave it the name of Williamstadt: you have called it Norristown, but he intended that it should be William's House, and he gave that name to it.

But so often it happens in life that when strong men, wealthy men, powerful men undertake to do something to advance the fortunes of their children that the effort results in failure, and it did in this case so far as Penn's gift was concerned.

William Penn, Junior, was unlike his father and he got into trouble of one kind and another, financial troubles and others, and as so often happens, as soon as he got possession of this land, the first thing he did was to sell it. He sold it in 1704 to Isaac Norris. Trent was associated with Norris but he soon withdrew.

Isaac Norris was a Quaker and he lived down in Jamaica—the Island of Jamaica. His parents and the rest of the family were destroyed in the great earthquake that they had in Jamaica in 1692, one of the most noted earthquakes in the history of the world, and then he came to Philadelphia—no doubt he felt that Philadelphia would be a safer place—and there he became a merchant. For his day he was quite an important and influential merchant, and presently he was Chief Justice of the Province and he was Speaker of the Assembly for year after year. You see how important your early associations were.

Norris after he had secured possession often visited this region and his thought was to form a settlement here, and he divided it up into lots. Your town grew up along the Ridge Road which in later days was called the Egypt Road. That road was laid out from Plymouth Meeting over across the Perkiomen to a ford over the Schuylkill where Phoenixville now is. It is said that the reason it was called Egypt Road was that it led to this Perkiomen region where there were fat and rich lands, and it was thought that was going to the "flesh pots of Egypt", and therefore they called it Egypt Road. You see how creditable that is to those who have been wise enough to select their location along the Perkiomen.

At the mouth of the Perkiomen there lived a man named Joseph Richardson who was also associated with the earthquake of Jamaica. His father Samuel Richardson lived in Jamaica likewise, and there is a very interesting and romantic story told about him which may take the attention of the ladies who are present. When this earthquake shook the island everything was disturbed, and as the waves began to subside which had swept over the town, out in the water was a chicken coop, and on top of the chicken coop was a young woman. Samuel Richardson went out into the water and captured the chicken coop, and bringing it in, as was very natural under the circumstances, presently he married the young woman.

He had one son, Joseph Richardson, who himself was a Councillor in the early days and a Judge and a member of Assembly and the richest man in Philadelphia next to Samuel Carpenter, owning all the land on Market Street from Second Street to the Delaware River. And he put it out on ground rents and gave it to Joseph, and Joseph, like a sensible man, came up to the Perkiomen. But he wanted a road; he was twenty-five miles out of town and had no means of getting down to those ground-rents, and he petitioned the court in 1722, but he got into a conflict with Isaac Norris, of Norristown. There was a road from Manatawney now, and Norris thought there was no occasion for two roads, and he did not want a road through his land, and he fought it, and he kept up this contention for eight years, but finally Joseph Richardson won out;

and the survey still exists which shows the Main Street of your town as Joseph Richardson's Road running from Egypt, on the Perkiomen, down to Plymouth Meeting, and your town has grown up alongside of it.

Isaac Norris presently sold the tract to John Bull. John Bull was likewise a man from the Perkiomen. He was the Rector's Warden—at the time of the breaking out of the Revolutionary War—of St. James Episcopal Church at Evansburg. When the war came along Bull went into it. He had here a mill, farm buildings and a house, but when the British swept through, the mill and house and barns were burned and John Bull was left almost desolate. He was a Colonel in the Revolutionary Army and a member of the Board of War, so that down to this time as you see all of the people with whom you were associated were people of very serious consequence in the affairs of the Province.

Bull sold this tract to the University of Pennsylvania, and that is our leading institution of learning. Of course, you are well aware that this university in the fields of scientific and literary investigation has extended its influence so that it is known world-wide by the work it has done. And it is to your credit, surely to your interest, to know that at one time the land on which your houses stand came through the University of Pennsylvania.

Looking at another phase of your life—in all the fields of activities, in all the work in which men have been engaged, the people whom your town represents have been conspicuous and efficient.

Let us glance for a moment at science. Are you aware—I do not believe you are—that the first time the distance of the sun from the earth was at all definitely ascertained it was done by the calculations of a man who took his observations within the limits of your town—David Rittenhouse. Of him, Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, said, "He has not indeed made a world, but he has approached nearer to its Maker than any man who has lived from the creation down to this day."

When the atmosphere of Venus was discovered, when it became known that Venus had an atmosphere, that also was due to observations made within your town.

The greatest of ornithologists of his day, a man whose fame extends everywhere, was likewise a man with intelligence to go up to the Perkiomen. That was John James Audubon; and he tells in his letters how in the winter-time he skated upon the ice there, and how in the summer he hunted for birds.

You want to look at Literature—the first essay upon the subject of Pedagogy, now regarded by every scholar who writes or thinks upon that subject, whose name appears in every book written in any part of the world that bears upon it, was a Dutchman living up on the Skippack, Christopher Dock who in 1750 wrote the first American essay upon that topic.

Has anybody ever told you what was the most important literary venture in the American Colonies prior to the Revolutionary Wars? It is a history and biography, small in size printed up in Ephrata in Lancaster County in 1749. It took thirty men three years to do the work on it. They made the paper, they printed the book and did the binding, and there was nothing like it from Maine to Texas in the United States before the Revolutionary War. And who were the authors of that book—Dillman Kulp who lived on the Skippack Creek and Henry Funk who lived on Indian Creek a branch of the Perkiomen, in the northern part of your county.

The most interesting of all the contemporaneous journals of the time of the Revolution, and this also ought to impress the women, was written by a young girl named Sally Wistar. She told her tale; she was a bright and sprightly piece, and she flirted with the British and the American officers, and she does not hesitate to tell in her journals all about it, and it makes an exceedingly interesting journal, and that was written down here in Germantown. I once had the successor to that journal, her own manuscript written later in life, but by that time she had grown sober and religious, and all that was contained in the later narrative was an expression of her religious feeling and interest, and it does not have the sprightliness and interest of her former narrative. But all who tell the tale of the Revolution go to some extent to Sally Wistar for their inspiration.

Looking into another field, that of statecraft: Do you know how many men of distinction in public life, men who

have had a real influence on affairs have come from your own county?

There was a man who lived in your county—he was sent over from England to be Governor of the Province, and he built himself a fine mansion, and with true wisdom he came into Montgomery County to build it. He did not know quite enough to go as far north as some of these other men; but he came within the bounds of the county and he built the Hall which has been known as Graeme Park. There lived Elizabeth Graeme.

Those of you who have read "Hugh Wynne" and you have all read it or ought to, remember the character in Hugh Wynne of "That cat, Bessie Ferguson" one of the important characters of that novel of Dr. Michell's. "That cat Bessie Ferguson" was Elizabeth Graeme; and when Sir Henry Clinton wanted an agent to approach General Joseph Reed who was the Adjutant General of General Washington throughout the Revolution, he selected Bessie Ferguson, and Bessie Ferguson is said to have gone to Reed with some very advantageous propositions, and Reed is said to have told her, "I am poor enough, but poor as I am the King of England has not money enough to buy me."

Now Elizabeth Graeme was a most interesting character, and it would be a good thing if some philanthropic man of affairs in Norristown would take charge of Graeme Park and rehabilitate it. I was there a year ago; the house remains as it was, but it is in a very dilapidated condition. To be sure, the location is not desirable; but nevertheless there is an outlook and so much has happened at Graeme Park, and the house stands untouched, so that it would be a very interesting and proper thing, and I commend it to some of you gentlemen to look after it. Perhaps the Historical Society of Montgomery County will some time acquire money enough to enable them to do it. This house was built by Sir William Keith.

After the Constitution of 1790, just one-fifth of the time that the Governorship of this Commonwealth has been filled, it has been occupied by men of Montgomery County.

There was David Rittenhouse Porter and Francis R. Shunk and John Frederick Hartranft and one other whom it is not necessary that I should mention. But in addition to that fact

there were two other residents of Montgomery County who were nominated for the Governorship who did not succeed in obtaining it—Arthur St. Clair who was a Major General in the Revolution and Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg.

Perhaps there is another whom in your enthusiasm you will continue in the future.

The first President of the United States Congress came from Montgomery County, and one of your citizens was nominated for the Presidency of the United States. He did not succeed to the place, but that was not his fault but of the people of the whole country.

The only contest of that battle (if you choose to call it a battle), with the Indians in Eastern Pennsylvania occurred out on the limits of Montgomery County in Hanover Township in 1728.

The Continental Army in its marchings to and fro swept through the county. Their camp grounds are all over it—New Hanover, Pennypacker's Mills, Schwenk's Tavern, Kulpsville—all over the county. At Skippack their army was encamped.

An English baronet has written one of the best histories of the Revolutionary War, and he speaks of a certain camp as the most famous camp-ground in the history of the war, and he tells us what it is—and it is Valley Forge.

Your presiding officer has said that in that camp the men showed their courage equally as well as they did on the field of battle. I do not think that that is a fair comparison.

The War of the Revolution was won not by skill and courage in battle. Nearly all the battles that were fought by General Washington ended in defeat. That war was won by persistence, by resolution, by staying there until it was over, and this great quality which represents the spirit of the American soldier and of the American citizen was nowhere exemplified in the way in which it was in that camp on the banks of the Schuylkill in Montgomery County.

At the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion when the southern states began to secede, we were able to hold on to two forts in those states, but one of those in the future days, Fort Sumter was captured.

The only fort in all those states which the Government was able to hold was a fort on the coast of Florida, Fort Pickens, and it was held by Captain Adam J. Slemmer of Norristown .

And when I speak of Hartranft, the hero of Fort Steadman, or of Hancock of whom it is said, "He commanded a corps longer than any other man, and his name was never mentioned as having been responsible for a blunder in battle," it is enough to say that these men are among the bravest of our Nation, and stand in the forefront of the battlefields of all modern times.

Their bravery has affected the future of this Nation for all the ages to come. It was their determination that made this country really a nation. It has affected the future of the whole world.

And when George G. Meade, that great Pennsylvania soldier, who fought that turning point of the war, sent a man as his executive officer to take command of the field, it was a man of your town, General Winfield Scott Hancock. A man whose career may be traced in the annals of the Civil War; but this, and the brilliance of his political campaign, are still fresh in your minds. His remains lie here, near his boyhood home, in a tomb which must ever be treasured in your possession.

So I might go on and multiply instances coming down to the present time where the men, and even the women—of Montgomery County have proven their valor in other fields, and have achieved success and honor—whether it be in the channels of Science, Commerce, Industry or what not—but these are so comparatively recent that I need not recapitulate them.

DR BEEBER:

The next is a paper on the Montgomery County Court House in 1850, prepared and now to be read by Joseph Fornance, Esq.

Mr. Fornance needs no introduction from me. Those of you who know what he has been to our Society will readily realize how utterly useless any words of mine would be to introduce him. For over twenty-five years he has been the leading spirit of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and

its president as well, exercising the functions of his office with a dignity and discretion and consideration that have led to a unanimous re-election at all our meetings. No one has thought of anybody else in connection with this office, and if anybody thought he was equal to contending for the honor I am sure his own vote would be the only one he would receive. May he live long to guide and inspire us in our work.

MR. FORNANCE:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

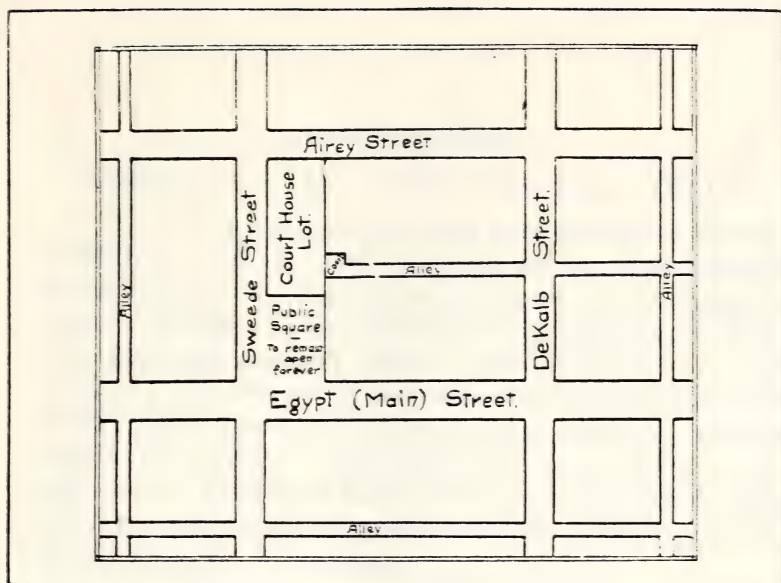
I want to prelude my remarks by thanking the children of the schools for the interest they show in the local history by attending here in such large numbers. I also want to thank them for the display last Monday. I think it is the principal feature of the display we have had and will have during this centennial week.

When I was asked to prepare a paper, or to say something about old Norristown, it occurred to me that perhaps I could write best about the little plot of ground near which I had lived for two-thirds of a century—I refer to what is now called “The Public Square.”

When I was a boy it was called “Court House Hill,” not a very large tract of ground—about two-thirds of an acre. There were the county buildings, it was the heart of the county, its surroundings were all important, and I, therefore, remembering how things looked to me many years ago, have prepared this paper which I have called “The Montgomery County Court House in 1850.”

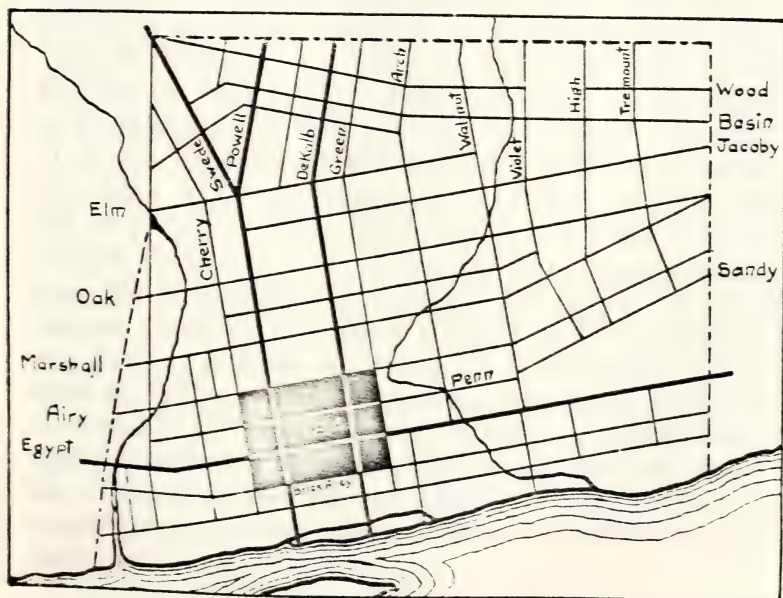
THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE—1850

Norristown is now celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a borough, and in connection with this celebration, various matters and places of interest and importance in the town's past history engage the public attention. Of such places of historic interest, there is one whose description and history appeals more than that of any other to the citizens of this county at large, as well as to the residents of Norristown, and that is the original Montgomery County Court House.



THE TOWN OF NORRIS

Plan taken from Deed Book, No. 2, page 463, Court House of Montgomery County, area 28 acres.



COMPOSITE MAP OF NORRISTOWN

Town of Norris, 1784-1812, 28 acres.

Norristown 1812-1853, 520 acres.

From Norristown 1812-1912. Through courtesy of Rev. Theodore Heysham, Ph. D.

"NORRITON PLANTATION AND MILL TRACT"

The earliest known map of what later became the borough of Norristown, is one which was made for the Charles Norris Estate in 1771. This map is now the property of our Historical Society. The tract of land shown in it is described as the "Norriton Plantation and Mill Tract," a tract of $543\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and contains a little more than what was afterwards comprised in the Borough of Norristown, as originally incorporated. On this map but one dwelling house, one tavern, a grist mill and a saw-mill appear. The greater part of the tract is woodland through which run a few roads at about the present location of Egypt, Swede, Ford and Sandy streets.

THE TOWN OF NORRIS

Montgomery County was originally a part of the County of Philadelphia, but was detached therefrom and created and organized as a separate county by an Act of the State Legislature on September 10, 1784, for the reason stated in the Act that "a great number of the inhabitants of the county of Philadelphia, by their petition, have humbly represented to the Assembly of this state the great inconvenience they labor under, by reason of their distance from the seat of judicature in the said county." [II Laws of Pennsylvania 267.] And it was in accord with the provision of this same Act of Assembly that a meeting was held at the inn of Hannah Thompson in Norriton township (now the Jeffersonville Tavern) at which the present site of Norristown was selected as the County seat. Afterwards, as authority by said Act of Assembly, land was purchased "in some convenient place in the neighborhood of Stony-run, contiguous to the river Schuylkill, in Norriton township" on which "to build and erect a courthouse and county prison, sufficient to accommodate the public service of the said county."

In 1785, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, being the owners of the land upon which the Borough of Norristown now stands, laid out upon it a village which they called the "Town of Norris."

It consisted of Swede, DeKalb and Egypt Streets, then of their present widths, and also four 24 ft. wide alleys that afterwards became Cherry, Penn, Green and Lafayette Streets. A map of the new village site was made and recorded in the Recorder's Office of the new County in Deed Book No. 2, page 465. This is the second map of the town. It shows the land now occupied by the Court House and the Public Square, then being all in one tract, as the alley (now Penn Street) was not yet cut through it. It also shows 66 building lots around the "Court House Lot" and the "Public Square." That was the entire town.

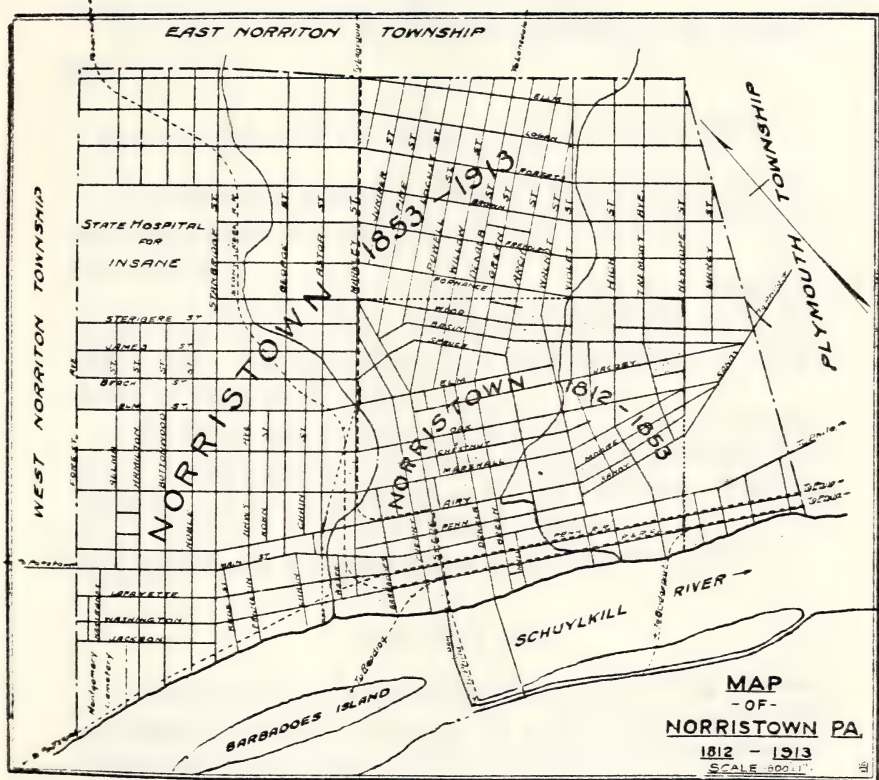
THE COURT HOUSE LOT

This second map is recorded with the deed for the "Court House Lot." That deed is dated December 7, 1785, and was given by the said Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania to the five persons authorized by said Act of Assembly to purchase the land, viz:—Henry Pawling, Jr., Jonathan Roberts, George Smith, Robert Shannon and Henry Conrad. The land therein conveyed is a rectangular lot 140 ft. wide beginning at the corner of Airy and Swede Streets, extending S. W. 344 ft. along Swede Street, bounded on the N. E. by Airy St., and on the S. W., by the "Public Square to remain open forever." The deed recites that the grantees their survivors and his heirs shall hold the lots "in trust to and for the County of Montgomery aforesaid, and particularly for the use and purpose of erecting thereon a Court House and Prison sufficient to accommodate the public service of the said County according to the Laws and Constitution of the said Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in such case made and provided." The consideration paid for the lot was five shilling (about \$1.25.)

The "Town of Norris" remained an unincorporated village for over a quarter of a century.

THE BOROUGH OF NORRISTOWN

Twenty-eight years after the County was created, Norristown became a borough and obtained a charter granted by an Act of Assembly passed March 31, 1812. It was still a small



COMPOSITE MAP

Norristown, 1812-1853, 520 acres.

Norristown, 1853-1913, 2265.01 acres.

From Norristown 1812-1912. Through courtesy of Rev. Theodore Heysham, Ph. D.

village having a population of about 500. According to the limits described in the Charter it extended from the Schuylkill River to Elm Street and from Astor Street to Ford Street, comprising about the same territory shown in the old map of the "Norriton Plantation and Mill Tract."

In 1853 the town was further enlarged to its present dimensions.

REMINISCENCE OF THE COUNTY BUILDINGS.

But instead of writing a history of Norristown, I will tell you how the old Court House and its surroundings looked to me in 1850.

I was then a small boy and lived at the west corner of Swede and Penn Streets. The Court House and the Court House Hill (now the public square) were directly across Swede Street in front of my home.

My father was a lawyer in active practice. His office was in our dwelling house. Boy-like, I often followed him in and about the old county buildings and what I am now describing I saw then most every day. My recollection of the scenes as they appeared to me 62 years ago, is still clear and distinct.

THE OLD JAIL

The County Jail, a small plain two story building of stone, roughly plastered over, stood on the southwestern side of Airy Street near Swede Street nearly on the site of the northeastern end of the present Court House. It fronted towards Penn Street. High steps led up to its front door. On the side of that door towards Swede Street it was a dwelling house. The other side, it was a prison and the windows had heavy iron bars. The Sheriff, Philip Hahn, lived in the jail and looked after the prisoners. The enclosed jail yard, behind the jail, extended back to Airy Street. In front of it was a green lawn down to Penn Street, over which was a brick paved walk. When the Sheriff came down that walk to Penn Street, and descended the steps there to Penn Street, he crossed that street to the

steps in the rear of the County buildings and leading up to the space between them.

CHANGE OF GRADES

The surface of the jail lot and of the Court House Hill (now the public square) was then at its natural grade which was about 4 feet higher than now.

Rough stone retaining walls enclosed the Court House Hill along Swede and Penn Streets, and a brick wall extended along Main Street. Along Swede and Main Streets those walls were built up 2 or 3 feet above the surface of the hill, and were topped with stone and marble coping. Rough stone steps led from the street pavement up to the hill. There were a few steps up from Penn Street, back of the county buildings. Another ascent was from Penn Street, over the 12 ft. wide space between the Court House and Swede Street, with several steps from it, up to the hill at the W. Corner of the Court House. Another flight led up from Swede Street about 80 feet S. W. from Penn Street.

A brick wall, surmounted by a marble coping, was along Main Street. Three flights of marble steps led up to the hill from Main Street. A few linden trees were clustered round the center flight of steps there. Paths from the three Main Street steps up to the Court House and the County offices were worn in the sod. A favorite short cut across the hill was the path from the steps at its South corner up to those at its North corner.

When the present Court House was building, in 1851 to 1854, the grade of the old jail lot was lowered. And when the old Court House was torn down in 1855, the grade of the present public square was similarly lowered and the terraces along Penn and Main Streets were placed there.

Another notable change of grade, partly made then and afterwards finished, was the lowering of the entire pavement on the Northeast side of Main Street from Swede to DeKalb Streets. It was then from two to four feet above its present

grade. A stone wall topped with a marble coping served there as a curb stone along most of that side of Main Street.

THE OLD COURT HOUSE

In 1850 the Court House building and the County Office building stood at the North East end of the Court House Hill, close to Penn Street, about 18 feet apart. They were on a line as to their fronts, and faced South West with the Court House Hill sloping down to Egypt Street, in front of them. Each of the two buildings was two stories high. They were very plain outside and inside. Both were built of stone, roughly plastered on the outside with yellow plaster. They were 60 years old in 1850, and were then sadly in need of paint and other repairs. Both buildings had been somewhat enlarged before I knew them. The original Court House and jail were both commenced in 1787, and the office building in 1791.

The Court House was the larger building, being 70 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, with a small extension or recess at the back of about 26 by 6 feet, which brought its extreme rear flush with the South West side of Penn Street. Its North West end was 12 feet from Swede Street. It was surmounted by a wooden cupola in which were a bell and a clock with four dials. The clock had been made by a skillful local mechanic, Jacob Custer. Two front doors opened from the Court House out on the Court House Hill. Two doors in its rear were on either side of the recess. Another door was in the Eastern end. No vestibules or entries were at the door.

As to the interior, the basement was the borough lock-up. Its entrance was from Swede Street. The borough had no policeman. Its one constable or watchman, as I remember him, was first Jake Bason and afterwards Jake Aaron.

The Court room occupied the entire main floor. The three Judges were one President Judge, David Krause, and two laymen associate Judges, Fenton and Hunsicker. They sat in a row on the bench in the recess along Penn Street and faced the bar in front of them. At the extreme right of the bench, in a small enclosure, sat the Court crier, John Keesey. Below and

in front of the bench sat the Prothonotary Jas. B. Evans and the Clerk of Courts A. H. Tippen. One long narrow counsel table was in the bar. In the end of that table farthest from the bench, a semi-circle space was cut, and in this space the attorney usually stood when addressing the Judges or the jury. In the western corner of the bar was the witness box, a small movable platform, with a railing around it two steps above the floor. Between the witness box and the bench sat the jury. It was customary for the entire Bar to be present in Court whenever it was in session. I recall seeing the following lawyers there: John B. Sterigere, John Freedley, Joseph Fornance, Wm. Powell, B. F. Hancock, G. R. Fox, Daniel H. Mulvany, John H. Hobart, S. N. Rich, Addison May, James Boyd, B. M. Boyer, John R. Breitenbach, Benj. Powell, B. E. Chain and Charles H. Stinson.

I recall with interest one trial in the old Court House. It was the case of Commonwealth against Emily Higgs, who was charged with infanticide, and was tried in 1852 before Judge Smyser. The trial is mentioned in "The Forum" by David Paul Brown, Vol. 2 p. 455. The counsel for the defendant were David Paul Brown, a famous and able lawyer from Philadelphia, and James Boyd of this Bar. Benjamin E. Chain was the District Attorney and was assisted in this trial by Charles H. Stinson. Murder trials were then unusual, and much sympathy was felt for the defendant, and that, together with the reputation of Mr. Brown, crowded the Court room during the entire trial. Mr. Brown was extremely dignified and courteous in his manner, but his fondness for display made him conspicuous. He was a short, stout, swarthy man, with very fine teeth which he was fond of showing. On the street his dress was remarkable. He wore a white beaver bell crowned high hat, a swallow tail blue broadcloth coat with real gold buttons, a yellow vest with gold buttons, ruffled shirt bosom and lavender colored trousers. He had a very heavy gold fob chain and many rings and carried a large gold headed cane. But when he came in the Court Room his clothes were all of somber black and his rings were omitted. I remember him trying this case, seated at the counsel table on Purdon's Digest

which he had put on his chair to lift him up, his large gold watch and chain on the table before him, nervously taking frequent pinches of snuff from his large silver snuff box, which also lay there, and scattering the snuff all around about and over himself.

The trial was a long one and was followed with intense interest. When the jury late one evening rendered a verdict of not guilty, the crowded audience shouted their approval. The Judge was furious with indignation at this disturbance. He pounded on his desk to restore order, denounced the outburst and commanded the sheriff to arrest immediately and bring before him every one engaged in it. But the sheriff could not detect the offenders and no arrests were made.

The Court room was not attractive in its appearance. The wood work all needed re-painting, the bare plaster walls were dingy, and the windows were seldom washed. All the furniture was plain. The chairs were quaint. The desks and tables were covered with green baize fastened on with large brass headed tacks. The pens were made from quills and sand boxes were used instead of blotting paper. Ingrain carpet was on the floor of the bench. Within the Bar and in the aisles were laid strips of rag carpet. The rest of the floor was bare. Around three sides of the room, facing in towards the Bar and a step or two above the level of the aisles, were long rough unpainted wooden benches for interested parties and the general public. Two large rusty iron cylinder stoves furnished the heat. Their long sheet iron stove pipes, hanging from the ceiling, ran to the pipe holes in the chimneys at the ends of the room. Tallow candles in tin candle sticks lighted the room at night. In the south corner an open stairway led direct from the Court room up to the second floor which was divided into jury rooms.

The Court House was closed and the shutters bolted, except when Court was in session or when the Court room was used for political meetings or other public meetings. The elections were held there, the polls being those of Norristown, Norriton, Plymouth and Upper Merion. Each poll had its separate voting window.

As there was no public hall in town the Court room was sometimes rented out for concerts, exhibitions and lectures. I remember seeing P. T. Barnum exhibit Tom Thumb, and Signor Blitz give his performance of ventriloquism, legerdemain, trained birds, etc., and also attended several concerts, all in the old Court room. Balls and fairs were sometimes held on the second floor. I copy here a printed invitation to a dance held there in 1831, given by the gay young bachelors of the town. It is on a small sheet of note paper addressed to Dr. Leedom and family, Plymouth. It reads:

"Norristown Cotillion Party."

"The pleasure of Dr. Leedom and Family's Company is requested at a COTILLION PARTY, on Wednesday evening the 19th of October next, at the Court House.

P. S. Markley

Peter Dager

John Freedley

D. H. Mulvany

Managers:

Wm. Corson

"September 24th, 1831, T. P. Knox."

THE OFFICE BUILDING

The office building stood East of the Court House and was used only for the County Offices. It was a plain two story building 50 by 36 feet. A hall ran through from the front door to the back door and four rooms, separated by stone partition walls, were on each floor. In order to make it fire proof, the floors were brick, the ceilings were stone arches plastered over, and the windows had heavy wrought iron shutters. Over the front door was a marble slab on which was cut "Montgomery County 1791." About ten feet back of this building was Penn Street and several rough stone steps led down to it.

The marble steps at the front doors of both the Court House and the office building descended to the Court House Hill which extended down to Main Street. These steps reached the bare ground. No pavement or macadamized path led up to them.

A small grove of trees, mostly lindens, stood in front of both the Court House and the office building. Under these trees public meetings, political, temperance or religious, were sometimes held. The speaker stood on the Court House steps, or on a small temporary platform by their side. Samuel Aaron made some of his most fiery, invective speeches there. One Sunday afternoon, it had been announced he would speak on Temperance at the Court House, a large crowd came there to hear him. The County Commissioners refused him the use of the building. The crowd broke in the doors, and threw open the shutters. They removed the sash from one window and Mr. Aaron stood on the window sill and spoke to the crowds, inside and out.

In fine weather the lawyers and county officials often pitched quoits under these trees; and the boys played marbles and spun tops there, and sometimes were so noisy over the game that they disturbed the Court and a tipstaff came out to silence them.

THE FIRE ENGINE HOUSE.

At the West corner of the Hill, fronting Main Street, and along Swede Street, stood a small fire engine house, one story high, and surmounted by a cupola in which was a fire alarm bell. In it were housed the "Pat Lyon" and another engine. Both were hand engines. When in service they were supplied with water drawn from the town pumps and passed from hand to hand along the bucket line in leather buckets.

Of all the old town pumps only one (or rather its successor) still stands. It is behind the jail yard. You will find it still doing business at the old stand at the North East end of the Court House, on Airy Street, opposite Church Street.

I recall some six more pumps scattered through the town. Each, like the one on Airy Street, stood at the curb with its spout pointing towards the roadway. Sometimes, in walking along the street, a depression in the pavement reminds me of the old pump that once stood there.

When the Water Company brought the Schuylkill water into the town about 1850, and put in fire plugs, the pumps were no longer needed. They got out of repair and decayed, and in time were removed, and the wells were filled up.

THE COURT HOUSE HILL

The "Court House Hill" in front of the Court House was an uncared for common. It was a playground for the boys. There was an entrance from it to the adjoining hotel, the Washington tavern, now the hardware store. A bare spot in the sod, on which no grass grew, was in the center of the hill where the soldiers monument now stands. It was the location of the annual bonfire at midnight of July 3rd, when all the bells in town were rung and guns were fired to welcome the coming Independence Day, and blazing fire balls, made of cotton mill waste saturated with turpentine, were tossed about.

Nearly a dozen one-story offices, several of brick, the rest of frame, rented to lawyers, stood on the rear of the adjoining land, now belonging to the Historical Society, and fronted on the Court House Hill. They extended from the County office building to the "Washington House," and then belonged to Robert Stinson. The Borough of Norristown bought this property from his estate in 1856, tore down most of the offices and used the rest of them for a lock-up until 1884. It then erected there a building for a Borough Hall and lockup, and so used it till 1896, when the Historical Society bought it and converted it into Historical Hall.

THE BOROUGH MARKET

Along the Main and Swede Street fronts of the Court House Hill and along the Swede and Airy Street sides of the jail lot was the Borough market. Farmers sold produce there from their wagons, backed up to the curb. In time some regular vendors claimed the right of selling from the same spot on each market day, and built rough board sheds extending over the pavement from their wagons at the curb to the top of the stone retaining wall of the Hill, sheltering the purchasers. They paid no stall rent but each regular attendant pre-empted a sell-

ing place and built his shed over the place he regularly occupied. The sheds extended along Swede Street from Main nearly to Airy Street. Often I climbed from the Court House Hill up on to the roofs of these Market sheds and from them got on the roof of the old engine house, and from there into its cupola where most of the boys I knew had cut their initials. On the big market days some farmers, who came only occasionally and had no regular stand, occupied the rest of the Swede Street curb up to Airy Street, and some backed up their wagons along Airy Street, behind the jail lot. Along the Main Street front of the Court House Hill the butchers backed up their wagons. Most of them had canvas awnings over the pavement at their stands.

In winter the boys coasted on the snow and ice on the Hill, often using for sleds inverted tables of the farmers and butchers which they had taken from the market sheds.

Of all the farmers who sold there I can recall only Joshua Molony, whose regular stand was at the East corner of Swede and Penn Streets, where he had built a substantial shed on which was a sign bearing his name.

Of the butchers who sold from their wagons along the front of the Court House Hill, I remember Othy Sands, John Freed, John and Charles Jacobs, and Andrew Hess.

The borough abandoned the old street market and built its first market building about 1851. It was a one-story frame shed starting at Airy and DeKalb Streets, and extending along DeKalb Street, where the City Hall now stands, some 200 feet towards Marshall Street. Later it was further extended all the way to Marshall Street. This new Borough market was strongly opposed by many citizens. They claimed that because of having to pay stall rent the farmers and butchers would charge more for their goods.

On account of this opposition Abraham Eshbach, proprietor of the tavern at Main and Barbadoes Streets erected a substantial two-story stone building, (still standing, at Barbadoes and Penn Streets,) in the rear of his tavern, which he called Eshbach's market. A large hall was on the second floor, and on the first floor were a number of convenient market stalls which

were leased at a nominal rent, to farmers who put up at his tavern, and to others. This attracted many buyers and the Town Council worried at seeing a number of prominent citizens, who lived close to the new Borough market, carrying their market baskets to and from the Eshbach market which was much farther away. My father was then an active member of the Town Council and I heard him and other councilmen complain of the citizens' neglect of the new borough market.

CHANGE AND PROGRESS

The change of all this old condition of things began about 1849, when the Academy was torn down. It was the high school and stood on Airy Street, on the present site of DeKalb Street. It was up on a bank, at the same grade as the jail yard is now, and fronted, facing directly down DeKalb Street, towards the river. When the Academy was demolished and the bank graded down, DeKalb Street was opened there where it had stood.

About that time the County Commissioners bought land on Airy Street, east of the Episcopal Church, a part of the open common called by the boys "The Big Field," and started to build the jail there. I recall seeing the workmen digging for its foundation one day when I went to see the circus tent raised on the bank, (long since graded down), where the Veranda House now stands.

When the new jail was finished the prisoners were moved there in 1851, and the old jail was torn away. The foundations of the present Court House were at once started. It was about three years in building and was first occupied in 1854. The weather-vane that surmounted its steeple bore the date 1854. Then followed the destruction of the old Court House the Office Building and the Fire Engine House. All were razed to the ground. The fine old trees around them were cut down. The retaining walls of the Hill were torn away and the land graded down to its present level. It looked bare and desolate. A heavy iron fence was built round three sides of the "Public Square" and a fountain, that rarely played, was placed in its center.

ADDITIONAL DEEDS FOR COURT HOUSE LOT

I have above referred to the deed given in 1785, by the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, to five residents of Montgomery County as Trustees for the "Court House Lot", for the purpose of erecting thereon the Montgomery County Court House and Prison.

In 1849 the County Commissioners of Montgomery County being about to build a new prison, feared that the removal of the old jail might invalidate their title to the Court House lot, and they obtained from the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, a release from the condition in the old deed which required the Court House and the Prison to be erected on that land. That release bears date Oct. 12, 1849, and is recorded in the Recorder's office at Norristown in Deed Book No. 74, Page 646.

In 1856, after the new Court House was finished and occupied, the County Commissioners again began to worry about their title to the Court House Lot and they then obtained from the Trustees of the University another deed for the lot vesting in absolutely and in fee-simple in the County of Montgomery "freed and discharged from all conditions, restrictions and limitations whatsoever." This last deed is dated March 28, 1856, and is recorded here in Deed Book No. 101, Page 218.

I do not know of a single part of the old jail or the old Court House still remaining as a relic or memento. But of the County Office Building I know of several remnants. The large date stone that was over its front door bearing the inscription "MONTGOMERY COUNTY 1791" is built into the wall in front of the present Court House on Swede Street near Airy, just above the large front steps.

The front window on the first floor of a small dwelling house now standing at 210 Strawberry Alley, came from that office building. Its rough heavy marble frame, and lintel, and sill, and its ponderous wrought iron shutters, have an ancient and curious look. In the rear of the same house is another similar window, and its kitchen outer door and door frame came

from the old Prothonotary's office and once opened into that office from the hall way of the old Office Building.

Perhaps when the present Court House is no longer needed, and is removed, those who read its history may be amused to also read this sketch of its humble predecessor.

THE NORRISTOWN CENTENNIAL

By ELIZA CRUGAR

I

With ripple of song, over shallows and deeps
No bar to its flowing, the fair river sweeps;
In freedom on going, where the forest trees growing
Flung light and flung shadows on river and shore.
No foot of an alien, no tread of a stranger,
Had trampled the blossoms the summertime bore,
For the Red-man was crafty, and no forest ranger
Left aught to betray where his trained feet had passed.
Oh! the river sang sweetly in the days that are ended
'Neath the sunshine or shadow, skies over it cast.
For the earth it was fine, and the world it was splendid
And the smile of the heavens was glad to the last
But the years have wrought changes. The Red man has vanished
Tepee and tent are but shapes of a dream.
Of a dream that the dawn of the morning has vanished,
Of a dream that is less than the ghost of a dream.

II

The years sweep on; and the land ariseth,
Giving its sons to the battle-doom.
Better a grave with the sun shining on it,
Than monolith white for a traitor's tomb
And men who came from the shores of our river,
Shrank not in fear from the danger hour,
But gave, "as giveth a cheerful giver,"
Their reddest blood as our country's dower;

And many a form in the dust reposes
Alone and unknown, on whose brow there should be
A wreath—not alway of bay or of roses,
But of one who died for our liberty.
If only our eyes could read the life-story
Of the men who fought in those years of pain
Our hearts would thrill with a sense of the glory
Crowning those who long in the dust have lain;
For they fought as men fight for home and for country,
Counting never the cost of the blood that they shed,
They fought and they died, and the dust doth enfold them,
But we cherish and honor our patriot dead.
Nameless—unknown—it may be without number,
The slain of old battlefields silently sleep;
No one of their kindred may know where they slumber
But the stars in their courses, watch over them keep.

III

Close on the shores of the beautiful river
Drowning its song in their whirr and their clang,
Stands many a factory; busy work giver—
But killing the song that the river once sang.
The years do not tarry—Time loves not a laggard—
The houses of a city rise stately and fast.
Progress is swift of foot, loseth no vantage,
And the village becometh a borough at last.
For time worketh changes; so many! so many!
And the sunny banks of the river shore
Are as things of the old day, returning never,
All their world of blossoming is no more,
But man careth little for bud or for blossom.
More fair in his eyes are the wheels that belong
To the fabrics of labor. He thinks that their whirring
More golden sweet is than the river's song.
But the "little old lady" loveth better the river
For that which God made is the loveliest
And she hears evermore the sweet ripple of water
Floating up through the hush of a day at rest.

"THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA."

By SAMUEL GORDON SMYTH

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I take it to be my first duty, in responding to the toast—"The Historical Society of Montgomery County,"—to acknowledge my appreciation of the honor you do me, and to thank you for the rare privilege of paying a just tribute to this Society and the work it has done—under such happy auspices, and in this distinguished presence.

If we were asked to define what is meant by the term History, and to properly analyze the subject, it would be found to be a task of undue proportions to the time allotted in a function of this kind. Briefly, however, for our present purpose—let me say—that History is a science which treats of man in all his relations to social, civil, moral, literary, commercial and political endeavor; or, in other words—everything that acts upon man; the influences to which he is subjected; the motives by which he is actuated, and the inferences drawn from these relations; these set down with clearness and truth, are, after all, but a simple account of facts.

Certain authorities give History precedence in learning—rating it above Philosophy and other highly important classifications of culture. But the business of History is to record the events—past and present, and those persons who figured in them—and to chronicle this data in such a way that it will make the best impression on the memory. To collect, criticize and conserve—are the basic purposes of our Society, and our mission cannot better be explained than by quoting the distinguished father of the no less honored son who presides at this board tonight. In accepting the dignity conferred upon him over 31 years ago—Colonel Bean said—"It has been thought proper that measures be taken to preserve the common history of our ancestry as associated with the organization and development of the County *** the marvellous achievements of the great

heroes and distinguished men and women who have preceded us in the work of life, and bequeathed to us civil and religious liberty; and the personal advantages of personal self-government,—place us under obligations to reciprocate in some measure, the distinguished favor, and if possible to rescue their work, their common history, from the households of their progeny before it is forgotten or deemed of minor importance. * * * The history of a country cannot be written by the ordinary bookmaker; it comes from thousands of homes where it is lived and repeated by the generations continually succeeding each other. And it is only when the archives of the rich contributions of facts are associated with the civil and domestic; religious and political lives of those who have gone before—that we can write a book that will adequately tell the beautiful story of their hardships and perils; their devotion and sacrifices; their patriotism and achievements.”

The scope of this Society's work can only be briefly stated here, and may be fairly comprehended by a hasty survey of the field. The history of Montgomery County offers, as no other county does—a numerous body of remarkable men of the eras in which they lived; a great variety of critical events; and the memorable localities of their occurrence.

Where is there a county in this State or among other commonwealths—richer in historic associations and environment; or more deserving of the praise of her generations; or more luminous than this—with the glory of her achievements and the prestige of her cosmopolitanism through the assimilation of her racial elements—than this? And from which has come a type of American citizen second to none on this continent! And again—where is there another Valley Forge like unto ours? When this organization was conceived, Valley Forge was as much a wilderness as in the time of Washington and his men! Today, under the inspiration of a new and aggressive spirit among our people springing into life with this body—it has been rescued from decay and desolation—redeemed and glorified in the hearts of many millions of our people

So too, it has been with the prowess and statecraft of our great men—the men who were born among these wooded hills

and beside their valley streams; bred in this atmosphere—they led useful and honorable lives and died exalted; and now their names and actions are writ enduringly upon the records of a grateful people. In this one county, out of sixty-seven in the State—came five of its governors; and it provided governors for other states and territories—one-sixth of the ruling power under the Constitution of 1783!

There was a time in the annals of this county—in those dark and perilous days, when it was little else than a camping ground, and portions of it were stained with the issues of conflict; when armed hosts trod over and ravished the land from Pottsgrove to Barren Hill; and from the Chester line to the Crooked Billet; when the beautiful, peaceful waters of the Schuylkill were polluted, and it was used as a silent highway for the stealthy ally of a foreign foe, for now we know much about these and other things that have been revealed by the patient research and activity of the investigator.

I might prolong this subject to a wearisome length, but with the most of it you are familiar, as you, no doubt, also, know something of the origin and objectives of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, but for those not so well informed I will refer to a few facts, only, in regard to our progress. This Society is the outgrowth of the sentiment which prevailed throughout the county in the period immediately preceding the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of this county, the Centennial of 1884, and this Society had its beginning on the 22d day of February, 1881, and very materially aided in the success of the Centennial. Of the twenty-three men who were its founders, only a very few now remain to enter, with us, into the rejoicings of these holidays.

Our present membership, of about 400, is inclusive of many of the leading and most substantial men and women residents of this county, while many others—"to the manor born" are scattered about the length and breadth of the country.

We have an excellent working library of over two thousand volumes in addition to manuscripts, old newspapers, diaries and other material of peculiar value in such an organization. All these are being constantly increased by purchase and contribu-

tion—and all are essential to the work we are engaged in; and much has come to us by bequest, both in material and money, so that upon the whole we have what constitutes a very valuable asset—a rich collection of bibliography for the student's instant use. The museum of this institution is already rich in original material; in relics of our old families and their mode of life; and in antiquities of the days that are past; and to these are being gradually added a further accumulation, all of which are ever present reminders of our advance, as a people, from our ancestors and the customs of colonial days. Under the direction of this Society volumes are periodically published containing the original "papers" read at its meetings from time to time; and they are the result of serious study and research in particular phases of thought and inquiry happily fostered by this organization.

The Society owns Historical Hall—originally the Borough Hall—where it meets annually on the 22d day of February; and a day is set apart in the early autumn of each year when the Society goes on an "Outing" to some selected historic place and enjoy an informal fellowship, an interchange of thought and a pleasant repast. The scene chosen is usually one that has figured in, or has, some historic relation to persons or events in the early annals of the county, and are most pleasant occasions. In addition to these fixed meetings there are two other stated gatherings in April and November respectively.

We have also, erected at notable places, markers and monuments to indicate and commemorate memorable occurrences; memorials to the valor of our brave men, and to immortalize in this way the debt we owe to early settlers, soldiers and statesmen, or some particular action or location—so that coming generations many know who and where it was our forbears wrought out some of the hard problems that was to their benefit.

One of the most important recommendations made by this Society concerns "Local History Day", by which means it is intended to bring to the attention of parents and school-directors a proper knowledge and regard for what our local history teaches. The observance of this day was fixed for the 19th of December, as it was upon that date in 1777—that General

Washington's army went into camp on yonder hills. The value and utility of such instruction should not be overlooked. It has had some recognition thus far, but not enough and the moment is fitting to again urge the matter upon the school authorities so that the minds of our youth may be trained and duly impressed with the lessons that the past has proven of value and necessary for our constant vigilance. They are again revived in the ceremonies of the passing week—otherwise the growing generations may become indifferent to the meaning and spirit of citizenship and patriotism.

We must not forget, in passing—what has been accomplished by those who have shaped the growth and destinies of this Society for the more than 31 years that have now gone. We accord them all honor and praise. And if "Virtue hath its own rewards" then we may well believe that those of them who are still with us and of us—are realizing, with much satisfaction—the high standard to which this Society has attained.

The last word is that we want every citizen of this county, or elsewhere—to become a member; to join us in the work of gathering up all that is worth retrieving, having, or knowing—before it is irretrievably lost; to take an interest in its preservation and to study it so that our knowledge may be broadened and that you will help to implant in the minds and hearts of our before us—laid deep and strong—the foundations of our institutions and government. We want also—your co-operation in maintaining and quickening the patriotic instincts of our people; and that you will help to implant in the minds and hearts of our youth those proverbial standards of character which we were taught to regard as cardinal principles in the lives of our great men and women, so that the inspiration derived from such virtues may make easy and plain their duty toward God, Home and the State—and prove them fit to be called the great Americans of the future—of whom our prophets foretell.

THE ALOE AGE OF NORRISTOWN

By ELIZA CRUGAR

Norristown lies in its vales, on its hills
A City most fair to see
In the eyes of those who will gather to greet
Its Aleo-Age of a century.
On its sunny slopes shines the sun today
As it shone in the days of yore;
And the river singeth the same sweet song.
may it sing it forevermore!

There was music of spring and perfume of flowers,
In many a grassy glen
Where now is heard the clang of the mills,
And the restless tramp of men.
For change hath swept o'er the river shore
Since the dawn of the century,
And its banks of blossoms, its bowers of trees,
Are not now of the things that be.
For man has laid long levelling lines
On many a flowery lea,
And the sweet blooms crushed, lie low, lie low,
Where no human eye can see.

Note—This singular if not unique title is probably taken from the characteristic of the Aloe—or Agave—the botanical name for the well known “century plant”—which for an hundred years sends up its growth and then matures in a single flowering stalk some thirty feet in height, crowned with an unbellate mass of small, yellow, sweet-scented flowers that last for a few weeks—then the plant dies! Not so, however, with Norristown whose upward career the plant symbolizes, having reached its century of growth—lives on—a richer, fuller and more promising cycle.—Ed.

We have our dead. They are lying at rest
On a hillside green and fair ;
And some have won laurels, that still are laurels.
But the laurels are not there !
For the dust is deaf to the world's acclaim,
And the dead can nothing know
Of the glory won when the world was theirs,
In the wars of Long-ago.

We have lost the glens ; we have lost the flowers,
They are only a memory ;
But a city is growing above their graves,
And it counteth a century !
A century that is full of life,
And of Progress, and fair Renown,
Shout "hoch" as we gather and greet today,
The Aloe-Age of our Norristown.

NORRISTOWN AS IT WAS IN 1814 AND 1815

By Daniel Fisher

This sketch embodies a series of articles prepared by Daniel Fisher for newspaper publication in anticipation of the centenary anniversary of the incorporation of Norristown. From his dictation they were taken in shorthand by Mrs. Margaret Richardson Knipe, now deceased, who transcribed the notes into typewriting. These have been converted into one continuous narrative, constituting a paper of unusual interest and value in showing the remarkable progress and development and the extraordinary changes which have taken place in the borough since the days of which Mr. Fisher wrote.—Ed.

In glancing back some sixty-five years to this dear old town of our childhood, and tracing its growth upto the present, and now to behold its great magnitude and growth, we feel a pride in claiming it to be the town of our youthful days. Upon these reflections, we have for some time past, felt a strong desire to give a description of the town, of its houses and occupants, and of the streets and lanes, as they existed in the years of 1814 and 15. In view and consideration of as above stated, we now propose to enter upon the task of our timely cherished wish. We therefore present you with our sketch, hoping it may prove to be interesting to the rising generation and others of the town, and elsewhere.

The borough was bounded as follows: Stony creek being the western line; the eastern line crossed the pike a little below Ralston's school, touching the Schuylkill river a little west of the Swedesford bridge; the northern line passed somewhere near the water basin, that now supplies the borough with water, and crossing the old Swedesford road at the hill, a little beyond the road that leads up to Stony creek, the southern line being that of the river Schuylkill. Stony creek bridge at the pike, was considerably lower and much narrower than at the present time. with long projecting wing walls extending in towards the town. Egypt Street in those days was known as the pike only, from one

end of the town to the other. We will in our description, confine ourselves to that name. On the south side of the pike there was a wagon road passing around the wing wall of the bridge and leading up to the creek; from the bridge out towards the river as far as to where the Norristown railroad runs her track up to the creek. There was a space of ground some 60 or 70 feet wide along said creek. The first dwelling we come to, was on the side of the pike, standing a little back from the end of the wing wall of the bridge, which was a two story stone building, owned by Philip Hahn, Sr., and was occupied about that time or a little after, by William Mayall, who was employed in Hahn's woolen factory, which factory stood some little distance east of the present Main Street depot. The dam, which was built of stone, was 120 or 130 yards up the creek from the turnpike bridge, from which the water was taken to supply the factory, and from our first recollection was called Hahn's Dam. It backed its waters some little distance above where Marshall street now crosses the creek. This factory was built up by Philip Hahn, Sr., and was the first factory that was erected in the town. A little east of the factory was a tannery, erected some years before our time by Michael Broad, with its many vats, and extending out towards the pike; the house a stone building that was used for the tannery, stood along the pike, a little east of Mr. Cox's present dwelling, and after the tannery was removed it was converted into a dwelling, and was occupied by Daniel Grady for some years, who was also one of Hahn's factory hands. We next come to Hahn's dwelling and farmhouse, which was the old stone part of the present hotel now kept by David Hartranft. Hahn's farm and building site took its line from the pike back of the sheds east of the hotel, and ran a northerly course back of the garden, until a little beyond the line of the old barn and stables, then took a northeasterly course in a line adjoining the lot of land belonging to the old Wheel Pump Hotel,¹ until it touched the corner of Barbadoes and Airy street lanes, (all of the small streets were called lanes and alleys) then taking an eastern course following said Airy street lane, to within some 50 or 60 yards west of

1. Probably the Hartranft House.

Cherry street, then taking a northeasterly straight course, adjoining the farm lands of Levi Pawling, Esq., to a point 30 or 40 yards west of Swede street, nearly opposite to where Jacoby street now connects with Swede, then taking a westerly course crossing Stony creek, and extending beyond the creek some distance to a lane belonging to the Chain farm, leading out to the woods, that extended up along the creek; then taking its line along said lane, a southwesterly course, following the hill south of Marshall street, until it reached the turnpike bridge; then following the north side of this pike to the point of starting. Part of this farm, that west of Stony creek, being then out of the borough, on that part a little south of Marshall street above where the Stony Creek Rail Road now crosses the street, stood a small house, which was then and for years after occupied by John Boggs, Sr., the father of John Boggs, Jr., who was long in the employ of Philip Hahn, Sr., as a farm hand, and afterwards was turnkey of the prison under Wendle Fisher.

Philip Hahn, Sr., had five sons and two daughters; John, Dr. William B., Philip, Franklin B., Thomas, Mary and Margaret. Mary was married to David Heebner, and Margaret was married to Jacob Umstead. All have departed this life except Dr. William B. and Thomas, who, as far as we know now, are still living. A little east of Hahn's line at the pike was a small stone smith shop,² which was occupied by Samuel Jacoby in which he carried on the smithing business part of his time. He had three sons; Samuel, George W. and William, and also several daughters. A little east of this smith shop, standing some distance back from the pike, stood a large hotel, two stories, built of stone, some 40 feet long, with a piazza along its entire front, and a shuffle board erected overhead. Near the east end of the piazza stood the wheel pump from which it was known by those travelling the pike, as the "Wheel Pump House" There was a wing extending north from the west end of the main building, which formed the kitchen and an outhouse. The stable with long projecting stone sheds on each side forming a kind of semi-circle, stood about 40 feet northwest of the hotel, leaving a good wagon passageway around the hotel; the west

2. Now the Norris Laundry.

side of Barbadoes lane, formed the eastern line of this property, until it reached the Airy street lane, and Hahn's farm lands, then followed Hahn's land a southwesterly course to the pike. Back of the tavern stable, some distance west of Barbadoes street lane, near where Penn street now passes, was a very fine spring with a stone shed built over it. Its water ran off in a northwesterly course until it reached Hahn's land, then ran scattering over said lands. This tavern was kept by Wendle Fisher for a part of 109 and the years 1810 and 11. Afterwards it was kept by Leonard Hartranft, Sr., who was the great grandfather of Ex-Governor, Gen. John F. Hartranft. Leonard Hartranft, Sr., had several sons and daughters. Those that were living with their father in our time were Amos and William, Sally and Tena. We remember hearing of John and Leonard who were married and living at their father's home. Leonard, Jr., was the grand father of Ex. Gov. J. F. Hartranft. This property was owned by a Mr. Crumback who lived in the "Neck" below Philadelphia, this side of Penrose ferry. This numbers all the dwellings &c., coming east as far as Barbadoes lane on the north side of the pike.

We will now come back to the south side of the pike. From Stony creek bridge coming east there were no buildings until we come to Hahn's dwelling opposite to which, standing a little back from the pike, was a two story stone house belonging to Lewis Schrack, Sr., He was a stage proprietor and ran a daily stage to and from Philadelphia, the fare being one dollar, the Wheel Pump House being his stage house. Edwin Schrack had three sons and two daughters: Rachel, James, Lewis, Jr., Angeline and Rachel. Angeline was married to John Bean, and Rachel to James Wells, Ex-Sheriff. A little farther east, standing back from the pike, was a small two story house with a gable toward the pike.³ This property belonged to John Borough who resided there and followed butchering, he was known by all the people of the town as "butcher John." Some distance farther east, standing back from the pike was a good sized stone stable and lot, belonging to Lewis Schrack, Sr., in which he kept his stage horses. Then near the corner of the

3. Levi Hawes—where Odd Fellows building now is.

pike and Barbadoes lane was a small stone house which was the hatter shop of James Robinson. He was captain of a rifle company, and during the War of 1812 and 14, was called out with his company and was encamped at Marcus Hook part of the time during the war; his house was the rendezvous of the enlisted soldiers.

Following on east some distance from Barbadoes lane, was a two story stone house, and adjacent on the east, was a frame building which was the office of the *Norristown Register*; it was edited by James Winnard who was the owner of this property and resided there. It was with Mr. Winnard that Samuel D. Patterson, William Powell, Jr., and Joseph Weber, learned the printing business. A little east of the printing office standing back from the pike was a one story building owned by Jacob Adle, Sr., the father of Jacob Adle, Jr., deceased, and Sarah, widow of the late Franklin Derr. A little farther east, about where the Montgomery National bank now stands, was a two story house with the gable end towards the pike. This house was occupied by Mrs. Patterson the mother of Samuel D. Patterson, which had long been owned and occupied by Phillip Koplin, deceased. He had a son Mordecai, who is also deceased. The widow of Philip is still living, and now resides in Philadelphia. The next buildings we come to on the east were the two large two story stone houses. The one east was occupied by the Bank of Montgomery County. Wendle Fisher occupied the bank house in 1812 and afterwards removed to the jail. The west building⁴ was occupied by Phil. S. Markley, Esq., for some years. Then at the southwest corner of the pike and Cherry street, was a two story stone house,⁵ the property of Dr. Isaac Huddleson, who resided there and for some little time after; here he erected a small one story stone building in which he kept a drug store. Mr. Huddleson had one son, Dr. John, now residing in Delaware county, Pa., and two daughters: Eliza, who married John McKay and Mary, who was also married but we do not remember to whom. This includes all the buildings on the south side of the pike coming east as far as Cherry street.

4. Probably where the Masonic Temple now stands.

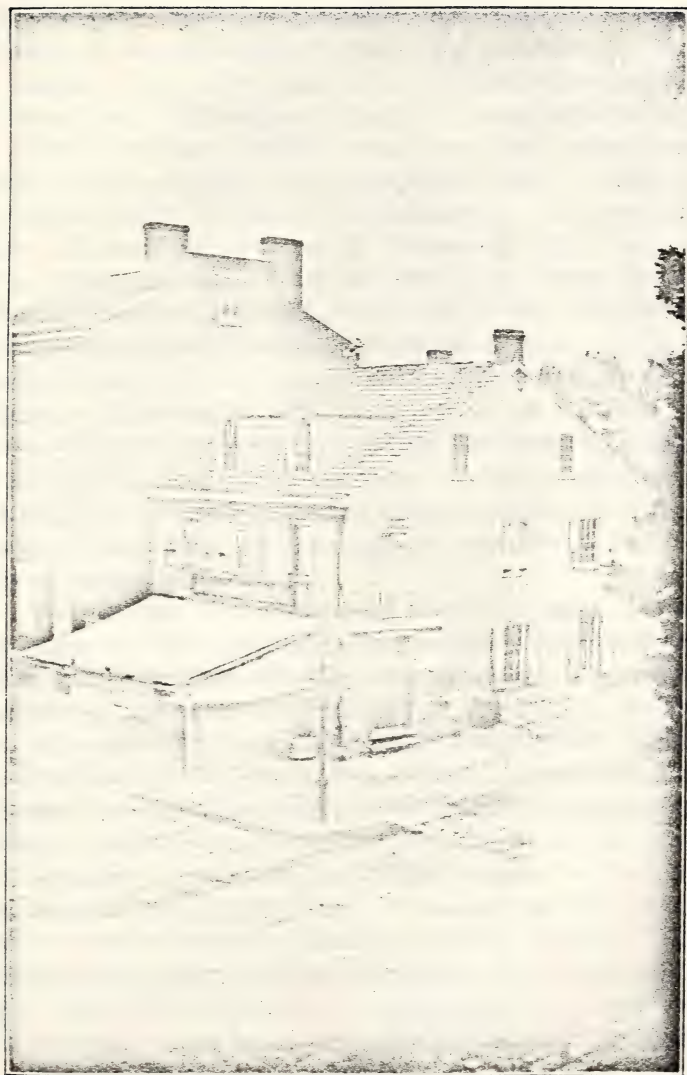
5. The Huddleson house torn away to widen Cherry street.

We will now come back to the north side of the pike. Coming east from Barbadoes lane, the first dwelling^{5½} was the large brick house, then two stories high, the dwelling of the late Franklin Derr⁶ which was partly built by Major Henderson and afterwards finished, owned and occupied by John Markley, Sr. He was the father of Philip S. Markley, Esq., Samuel Markley, and John Markley, Jr., John Jr., died in early years. He also had three daughters, Molly, Betsey and Hetty. Polly was married to John Boyer, Esq., who was long connected with the Bank of Montgomery County, and is now deceased. Major Henderson was appointed 'Squire' by the Governor a little after our time and sometime after his appointment, as he was returning home from the old Swedesford Hotel where he had been attending to his duties, his horse ran away, and just before reaching the river he was thrown out of his sulkey and killed. He was greatly lamented by all, as he had become a greatly honored, respected and useful man. His death was a terrible shock to the people of the town.

Leaving the Markley house, a little east of it was a long two story stone house which is still standing. The west end was occupied by George Righter. He had a lumber yard, also a four horse team which made regular trips from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. His team was driven by a colored man who was known by the people of the town as "Black Jack"; he was a highly respected, honest, and steady colored man, who was considered one of the best carters on the road. Righter's lumber yard was west of John Markley, Sr's., brick dwelling, on lots adjoining, running from the pike to Penn street lane. The east end of said stone building was occupied by Dr. Samuel Gartley, who was a very noted physician of his day. He left two sons, William Gartley, and John Gartley. William is still living in the town, and their mother is now residing in Pottstown, Pa. The next building was at the corner of Cherry

5½. The first building east from Barbadoes street was a big building belonging to Frank Naces's father where the present Post-office stands, then came a store house next to Brandt's, then came a building known as The American Arcade of Mechanics where a Chinese laundry, and Amos Albertson, and a tin shop now stand.

6. Late Dr. Pyfer's house.



SITE OF MCKAY & STINSON'S STORE, 1814
Now occupied by the Norristown-Penn Trust Co., 1927

street⁷ and the pike on west side of Cherry, and was a two story brick occupied by Reverend John James, a Baptist preacher, it was afterwards occupied for sometime by Philip S. Markley, Esq., and of late years, was occupied as the First National Bank of Montgomery County. On the opposite corner of Cherry street and the pike, was a two story stone house⁸ which is still remaining; it was occupied by Rev. Mr. May, the Episcopal minister of the town, who died there; and some years after it became the residence of Thomas M. Jolly, Esq. A little farther east was a large two story stone house the residence of Levi Pawling, Esq., who was the owner. Mr. Pawling had three sons, Joseph Pawling, Dr. Henry Pawling, and James Pawling, Esq.; he also had several daughters, the names of whom we disremember with the exception of Elizabeth and Beckie. The same residence, remodelled, has become the property of A. Kneule & Son, proprietors of the *Norristown Register*; of late years the residence of Joshua Molony, deceased.⁹ This includes all the dwellings etc., coming east on the north side of the pike as far as Swede Street.

We will now come to the south side of the pike. Close to the corner of Cherry, east side, was a two story brick dwelling,¹⁰ occupied by Gen. Francis Swain; some years later it became the property of Benjamin E. Chain, Esq., now of this borough, and of late years the same house, remodelled, has been the residence of George N. Corson, Esq. A little farther east was a two story stone dwelling with a frame building attached. James Roberson resided there and kept his hat store in the frame part, still occupying the house at the southwest corner of Barbadoes and the pike, as his hatter shop. A little east of this dwelling was a two story house the dwelling of Robert Hamill.¹¹ East, was a one story stone store house, in which Mr. Hamill kept his store. Some few years later this building was torn away and a two story brick store house erected in its place, both have been

7. Samuel Crawfords Clothing Store.

8. John J. Corson's Real Estate Office.

9. Below Daily Register and B. E. Block's. On the former site of The Penn Trust Co., was the large stone store of McKay & Stinson.

10. Adjoining Stritzinger's store.

11. Probably Frey's cigar store.

remodelled since. A little east of this store, was a good sized two story stone dwelling occupied by Zadock Thomas, who, with his brother David, kept a store in the building now standing at the southwest corner of the pike and Swede street.¹² Some time after this the store was kept for many years by Jonathan Thomas, and after his death it was kept by McKay & Ramsey, and later has been owned and occupied by John Stauffer, Ex-Sheriff, as a tin store.

Crossing Swede Street, coming east some little distance, was a large two story stone hotel, with a piazza along its entire front extending over the pavement to the curb; it was called the "Rising Sun"—which the sign indicated; it was kept by Jesse Roberts, and during his time it became the stage house for the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh stages. The stable and sheds of the hotel stood back a little east of it. Some years ago this property came into the possession of Christian Meeh, now deceased. Adjoining this property on the east, we find the large three story brick building, now the Montgomery House, which was then owned and partly occupied by Henry Freedley, Sr. The west end of the building was fitted up for a store, and was occupied by Samuel Jacoby, Sr., after his quitting the smithing business. A little back from the east end of this building, was a large pottery house in which that business was carried on by the Freedleys, and some time after by Enos Jacoby, a brother of Samuel Jacoby, Sr. Enos was married to a daughter of John Zeiber, late of the borough. Henry Freedley had four sons and four daughters, as follows: Henry Freedley, Jr., Jacob Freedley, John Freedley, Esq., and Dr. Samuel Freedley. Susan was married to Samuel Jacoby, Sr., Betsey to George Prince, Polly to Richard Davis who settled in Pottstown and died there, and Catherine to Matthew Neeley. Some distance farther east, was a two story stone house, and close by was a two story frame, the property of Edward Magee, late of the borough of Bridgeport. Mr. Magee occupied the stone building and carried on saddle and harness making. The frame building was occupied about our time by Jacob Bevans, who followed watch making. He had two sons, William Bevans, Jr., and 12. Recently The Times office.

Augustus Bevans. Mr. Magee had several sons, the name of the oldest was Robert Magee, now or lately residing in Philadelphia, his other sons being much younger, their names we do not know. He also had several daughters among whom we remember the names of Emily and Margaret. Frederick Naile, Sr., became possessor of this property some years later. These buildings have all disappeared. A little east of this property, was a two story stone house, with a small stone building attached. This building was occupied about our time, or a little later, by Charles Jones, who carried on the hatting business in the small building. Mr. Jones had two sons and one daughter, that we remember, as follows: John Jones and Lloyd Jones; the daughter, Theresa, was married to Robert Iredell; the sons remained in the borough. Mr. Jones died a greatly honored and respected citizen. At the west end of this house, standing a little back, was a small two story frame house, which was occupied about, or a little after our time, by a Mr. Rice.¹³ This property afterwards passed into the hands of David Sowers, who was the editor of the Norristown Herald, which he commenced to publish about the year 1816. He was the father of Franklin D. Sower, now of the borough and proprietor of the well known stationery and book store.

At the southwest corner of the pike and DeKalb street was a large two story stone hotel,¹⁴ kept by Nicholas Coleman. This house was the stage house of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh line of stages, of which he was part owner. The stable and sheds of the hotel were on DeKalb street between the hotel and Lafayette street. This property afterwards came into the possession of Ex-Sheriff Isaiah Wells, deceased. Mr. Wells had two sons and two daughters; James Wells, Ex-Sheriff, and Jesse, both of whom are dead. The oldest daughter was married to Mr. Moore, who was the father of Isaiah W. Moore, late of the borough, and the Hon. William Moore, Ex-Congressman, from Atlantic county, New Jersey, now deceased. Sally the youngest, was married to Levi Roberts who, for a time, kept the Norristown hotel, and also for a time kept the Rising Sun hotel.

13. Sames book store.

14. Now Yeakle & Daub.

This concludes all the buildings, etc., on the south side of the pike, as far east as DeKalb street. We will now come back to the north side.

Coming east from Swede street on the east side of the Public Square, then called the Court House Hill, was a large stone tavern¹⁵ house, a portion of it is still standing, which was kept by a Mr. Harvey, and afterwards by Mathias Koplin, the father of Nathaniel Koplin (who was flour inspector in Philadelphia for some years) and of Philip Koplin who was a master workman; as a carpenter he was well known by the people of the borough generally; he is now deceased. Later this house was kept by Mrs. Ann Webb. It then became the stage house of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh line of stages. A little east of the hotel, standing back, was a large stable and sheds belonging to the hotel. Mrs. Webb, was in some way connected, a cousin—we think—to Mrs. Eleanor Rees, and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. She had three sons, James, John and Isaac, all of whom are now deceased. There was a high piazza along the whole front of this hotel, with steps at each end to pass up and down to reach the bar-room, during Mr. Harvey's and Mr. Koplin's time. But when it was kept by Mrs. Webb, they had been removed and a range of high steps had been erected instead to reach the bar-room from the pavement. This house has since been remodelled, and is now occupied by Quillman & Koplin, as a hardware store. There was a small stone house erected at the west corner of the square and the pike a little after our time, this was the engine house of the Norristown Fire Company; it has long since been removed.^{15½} Some distance east of the hotel just cited, was a large^{15¾} two story stone house, the dwelling of Thomas Ross, Esq., who was an attorney of some note of the bar of Montgomery county. This same residence is now occupied by William Stroud. A little farther east, was a long two story stone house, which for some years back had been the property of William Powell, deceased. The east end was occupied by Samuel Ladd, and some

15. Washington Inn.

15½. "Pat Lyon" Fire Engine House, at the corner of the Square.

15¾. Next Peoples Bank on the West.

time after, he removed to Philadelphia and commenced the practice of law. The other part of the house, we think was occupied by Francis Hughes. This property¹⁶ was owned by Wendle Fisher, and is no longer standing. Mr. Powell had five sons: John, William, Samuel, Benjamin and Joseph; he also had three daughters, we remember the names of Sarah, now deceased, and Jennie. Leaving the Powell house, at the northwest corner of the pike and DeKalb street, was a large two story stone house and at the west was a frame shop. This property belonged to John Righter, he was a cedar cooper and followed that business occupying the shop as his cooper shop. He was a brother to George Righter, before named, and the father of Sarah Righter, who for some years had become famous as a preacher among the Dunkard persuasion. This house had been occupied by James Schrack, now deceased, as a dry goods store.

Crossing DeKalb street, at the northeast corner was a large two story brick dwelling, which was occupied by Joseph Denson, who, for a time, had part with Lewis Schrack in the Norristown stage. Mr. Denson had one daughter and two sons; Harriet, Woodruff and John. A little east of this property was a stone smith shop which was occupied by Abram and Isaac Tyson, brothers, who carried on blacksmithing and horse-shoeing. They were men of powerful strength. On one occasion, having a restless, wicked horse to be shod, it taxed the strength of one of them to a considerable degree. Finding no other way to complete his work, he caught the horse by one of his front and hind feet, and threw him down and in that position he finished the work of shoeing him. This property belonged to Thomas Stroud. A little back from this shop, on the next lot, were two small house standing about 15 feet apart. One was built of stone, the other a log house. The stone was occupied by an old lady known as "Granny Wells." She was a doctress, and had quite an extensive practice for some distance in and around the borough. She was the grandmother of Gartley Gabb, an Ex-Representative of Montgomery county,—Curtis Wills Gabb, who, with a blind sister of theirs, resided with their grand-

16. Lindley Rossiter had a currying establishment between the Powell property and The Norristown Trust Co., property.

mother. The log house was occupied by Michael Wills. He was the father of Jeremiah Wills, who resided for many years near the Plymouth Meeting house, in this county, and had of late, resided in Philadelphia, and is now deceased; and of Michael Wills, late of Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pa.

West of Green street lane on north side of the pike, a little east of Wills' house standing next to the pike, was a clever sized frame building, occupied by Mr. Haycock, a relative of James Winnard. He was a cabinet maker and carried on that business. Then on the east side of Green street lane, was a large two story brick dwelling, which was occupied by a Mrs. Bunting, who kept a store. Some time afterward the store part was made into a dwelling apartment, and was occupied by Parson Jones, who kept a boarding school, and occupied the second story room in the west end of the academy as his school room. There was no other dwellings on the north side of the pike, until we come to Ralston's school. The old part of that building was the residence of the Hon. Bird Wilson. He was president Judge of the Courts of Montgomery county; and afterwards the dwelling was occupied by the Hon. Richard B. Jones, associate Judge of this county. He was the son of the Hon. John Jones, who resided in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, about two miles southeast of Conshohocken, and was Judge of the same county, and filled that position from 1793 to 1822. About the close of our time there was a stone house erected at the west corner of Sandy Hill road and the pike, we think it is still standing. On account of its shed room it was called the "Salt-box." There was a large persimmon tree standing back of the house, which was frequently visited by the boys when the persimmons were ripe. This house was built by Francis Hughes, before named, and was afterwards owned by Wendle Fisher. Wendle Fisher had six sons living in our time: Jacob, Joseph, Charles, Daniel, Samuel R. and Jonas. George, the next oldest, died some years before, in Upper Hanover township, Montgomery county; Joseph and Charles, died some years since, and Samuel R. quite recently. This finishes up all the buildings in the borough on the north side of the pike. We will now come back to the south side of the pike. At the east corner of De-

Kalb was a good sized two story frame house,¹⁷ with some frame apartments connected with it. This house was occupied by John Fry, Sr., who followed cake baking and also sold oysters. He was the father of Enoch and John, (commonly called "Jack") Fry, both of whom are deceased. Then at the corner of Green street lane and the pike, west side, was a large two story stone house. At the west end standing a little back, was a one story building in which was kept a drug store. This property was owned and occupied by Dr. Jacobs. Thomas W. Potts learned the drug business at this place, which he followed some years afterwards. Crossing Green lane, some distance east, was a two story stone house, now standing, which belonged to the estate of the Hon. Joshua Evans, deceased. It was then the property of John Coates who carried on tailoring. He was the father of James Coates, who also carried on the tailoring business some years ago in the borough. A little east of this building was a large two story stone house, the dwelling of Mathias Houlsten, commonly called Major Houlsten. This numbers all the dwellings that stood along the pike in those days.

We will now come back to the west end of the town, and will have something to say about the appearance of things above the borough and along the pike. The hill above Stony Creek was much steeper than at the present time. The old road, before the pike was made, bore considerably around to the right from just above the bridge and then ran straight up the hill, and when the turnpike was made, it was cut straight through from the bridge up the hill. This left a bank standing 6 or 8 feet high and of some width, between the pike and the old road which ran up to the top of the hill. To the right of the old road¹⁸ a little above the bridge, there was a small house standing some little distance back on the Chain property, a little above the slope of the hill which was very steep, and overlooked the west end of the borough. This house was occupied by John Vanfossen, who was known in those days as John Fox. He had four sons: Arnold, now of this borough, William who died in early years, John and David; he also had two daughters that we

17. Yosts Dry Goods Store.

18. Now George Street.

remember, Betsy, who was married to a man named Painter and Hannah. Hannah and John, as well as myself, were for some time employed in Hahn's woolen factory. Above the top of the hill, standing on the north side of the pike, was the large two story stone mansion¹⁹ and farm house of Matthew Chain, Sr., the grandfather of Benjamin E. Chain, Esq., before spoken of, and Mark Chain. The barn was built of stone, some little distance above his mansion on the south side of the pike, with the gable end towards the pike. From the upper side of the barn to some distance back towards the river. Then taking a straight line running east parallel with the pike to a point 80 or 100 yards west of Stony Creek. Upon this plot of ground, containing, we suppose, some 5 or 6 acres, stood a large orchard, known as "Chain's Orchard," in which was found an excellent variety of winter apples, Romanites and others. This orchard was visited in the proper season by boys and others of the town.

We now come to the north side of the town. Airy street was open its full width from Cherry street lane to Green street lane. There was a stone quarry on Green street lane extending across Airy street to its full width, with a breast some 10 or 12 feet high, which prevented the entering of Green street with horse and wagon until some years after, when it was graded, so that a horse and wagon could pass up and down. The academy a large brick building, stood directly across De Kalb street, a little back on the north side of Airy street, with a row of Lombardy poplar trees standing in front, about on a line with the north side of Airy street. The Episcopal church, standing west of the prison, was built during our time. These two were the only buildings standing on Airy street in these days with the exception of three or four small stables. From Cherry street lane on the south side of Airy, there was a small lane, before mentioned, which ran west to the end of Barbadoes lane. Then a still smaller lane continued from that to Hahn's dam. Then the road turned up the creek and ran to Hahn's stone quarry, some distance above Marshall street. Then crossing the creek to Hahn's land, before mentioned, on the west side of the creek. Barbadoes lane extended from the river to the point

19. Ellwood Roberts late residence.

where it intersected Airy street lane, with no other buildings of any kind upon its sides. There was a crab-apple tree which stood nearly in the middle of it, about half way between Lafayette street lane and the river. And on Airy street lane, standing close together. A year or so after our time there was way between Cherry street lane and Barbadoes lane. Cherry street lane was open from Lafayette lane to Airy street, with no buildings upon it, except George W. Pott's, and another stable, standing close together. A year or so after our time there was a small stone house built near Airy street on the east side of Cherry, which was owned and occupied by Jacob Miller, a colored man, who was married to a white woman named Beckie. Mr. Miller was known by all as "Black Jake the barber," that being his occupation. The lots north of the present Rambo House to Airy street, and from Swede to Cherry, belonged to George W. Potts, from whom Miller bought the lot upon which his house was built. Penn street lane was open from Cherry to Barbadoes lane, with nothing but barns and stables upon the south side of it, belonging to the dwellings on the north side of the pike, the lots running through from the pike to Penn.

About the latter part of our time, or later, there was a small frame house erected on the upper side of Righter's lumber yard and Penn street lane, which was occupied by Righter's carter, Black Jack, who resided there for many years; and after Righter removed from the borough he did hauling for the people of the town and others, with a horse and wagon. That portion of ground then belonged to Pawling's land. West of Airy to Hahn's lands and from Airy street lane to the north lands, and from Airy street lane to the north line of Airy street and a little beyond, was called Potter's Field. We remember seeing one or more persons buried there. The lots between Cherry and Barbadoes, and Penn and Airy street lanes, and the lumber yard, and west to Barbadoes, and between the pike and Lafayette street lane—all belonged to John Markley, Sr. Penn street from Swede to Cherry was not open until 1819. But it was open from east Swede to Green street lane, with buildings upon its sides as follows: The Court House stood facing the pike,²⁰ at 20. The door of the old Court House faced DeKalb Street.

the corner of Swede and Penn streets on the Public Square, then called the Court House hill. And a little east of it was a large building occupied as the county offices. On the lot adjoining the Court house hill, at the east end, was a small one story house standing a little south of Penn, which was occupied, about our time, by a family of McNeals. On the next lot adjoining east, was a large two story stone house, which was said to have been the school house for the town at one time, it was occupied by a Mr. Mitchel and some others. This lot extended down the hill to the pike, and was owned by Thomas Ross, Esq. On the adjoining lot east, also the property of Mr. Ross, was a large barn and a hay and grain house. There was also a stable on the Powell lot, and one on the George Righter lot at the corner of DeKalb and Penn, and also one on the "Granny Wills lot, —all on the south side of Penn street. On the north side of Penn street coming east from Swede opposite the old school house on the Ross lot, were two houses adjoining each other. The one east was a two story stone and the other a one story log-and-frame house. These houses belonged to Conrad Hipple and he resided in the stone house. The other was occupied by John Buck, the father of William, Benjamin, James, and John, all of whom are now deceased. Conrad Hipple had four sons and four daughters, as follows: John, Jacob, William, and Peter, John resided in the borough and the other three were merchandising in Philadelphia, all of whom are now deceased; his daughter, Polly, was married to William Griffith; Rachel was married to John Keesey; Elizabeth was unmarried, and Sarah was married to Hunter Rattew. Some distance farther east on the north side of Penn, was a small two story stone house directly opposite to the Powell lot. The owner and occupant of this house we do not remember.

The lots between Hipple's lot, and the house just described, and between Penn and Airy streets, and also the lots between the Episcopal Church lot, and the academy on north side of Airy, belonged to Thomas Ross, Esq. A little east of the last described house was a row of two story stone houses, containing three dwellings. The west end was occupied by William Griffith who carried on boot and shoe making; he was the son-

in-law of Conrad Hipple. The middle house was occupied about our time by a Mr. Sturges. The east end building was occupied by Mrs. Stroud, the mother of Thomas Stroud. This numbers all the houses on Penn street.

The lots between DeKalb and Green, and Airy and Penn streets, and that portion on the west side of DeKalb street, taking in the house occupied by Mrs. Stroud on Penn street, running in a straight line parallel with DeKalb street to Airy street, all belonged to Thomas Stroud. We will now come back to Barbadoes and Lafayette street lanes. From Barbadoes nearly opposite to Lafayette, was a lane running west to John Brough's stable and slaughter house. On Lafayette street lane, from Barbadoes to Swede street, there was nothing but barns and stables on the north side belonging to the dwellings on the south side of the pike, the lots running through from the pike to Lafayette lane. From Swede street, Lafayette continued east to Green street lane which was the terminus of both of these lanes. The only house on Lafayette street stood on the corner of it and Green street lane, facing Green. And on the north-west corner of these two lanes was a large brown, stone barn, finished in excellent style, built by Dr. Jacobs, and some years afterward it was converted into dwellings. Between DeKalb and Swede streets on the south side of Lafayette street lane, opposite the Montgomery House lot, there was an extensive brick-yard and kiln, which was owned and carried on by the Freedleys. The clay for making the bricks, and for use of the pottery before mentioned, was taken from back of the pot-house, a little to the west, and the place of digging formed a large pond, in which the water had been of considerable depth. There had been some fish placed in this pond, and we recollect seeing a large quantity of fine catfish taken from it with a seine. The barn belonging to the Freedley property stood on the north side of Lafayette lane, leaving a wagon way to pass from the pottery house down to the brick yard. Airy street being the terminus of DeKalb street north, as before described. On the west corner of DeKalb and Airy, there was erected, about the close of our time, a small two story frame house by Thomas Stroud, the owner of this property as before stated. This house was oc-

cupied by William Wilson who was employed, as a farm hand, on Deal's farm about three-fourths of a mile north on Green street lane. Near the northwest corner of Penn and DeKalb streets, Mr. Stroud erected a fine two story stone dwelling, which he commenced before our date, but was not finished until after the war of 1812 and 14. This house then was his private residence. A little north of this dwelling on the same side of the street, was a good sized frame building which was Mr. Stroud's carpenter shop—that being his occupation. Mr. Stroud had two sons: Edward, residing in the city of Philadelphia, and William, now of the borough; he also had some daughters, we remember the name of Margaret, and think another was Mary. About midway between Penn and the pike, on the east side of DeKalb, on the Stroud lot before described, was a small frame stable for the use of his brick dwelling at the corner of DeKalb and the pike. At the southwest corner of DeKalb and Lafayette streets, was a good sized frame dwelling, which was occupied by by Henry DeHaven. We do not remember his children, except one daughter whose name was Susannah. Then on the north side of DeKalb, near the brow of the hill which slopes down to the canal and feeds the mills and factories along the river, was a long low frame dwelling, (a portion of it we think still remains), which was occupied by Abm. Yeakle; he had one daughter whose name we have forgotten; and a little time afterward the house was occupied by William Priest who now, or lately—resided on the opposite side of the river from Conshohocken on the hill below the furnace. DeKalb street, at this point, was so steep and rugged, that no horse and wagon could pass up or down until some time after it was graded.

The only fording place of the river from the borough, prior to the grading of DeKalb street hill, was from Swede street, which street we will now speak of. Swede street running north from Airy street, was called the Jail Lane. It was noted in those days for horse racing, foot racing, and for playing "long bullet" and other amusements. Somewhere near where Powell street branches off from Swede on the east side of Swede, standing a little from the road, was a frame barn, called Freedley's barn, it being on his farm land. Mr. Freedley had a number of

acres of farm land which ran from Swede some distance east between Pawling's farm south, and Ross's farm ground north. This barn afforded a fine lodging place for many tramps passing that way. A little beyond the barn was a wood, the east line of which ran off from Swede street in a northeasterly course until it crossed the borough line. Swede street was the western line of this wood, and was known as "Ross's woods." Ross's farm lands lay between these woods and Green street lane, and Freedley's and Pawling's farm lands south, and the borough line north, upon which, a little west of Green street, was a small apple orchard. Ross's woods afforded considerable sport and pleasure to the boys in the fall of the year for gathering nuts, and his orchard was also frequently visited by the boys of the town. Swede street from Airy to the river was open to its full width. The old jail stood on the southeast corner of Airy and Swede streets. The jail building extended from near Airy street to about opposite the north side of the present Court room; the front was about ten feet back from the present pavement, and the walls of the yard extended back about as far as the rear of the county offices. And about opposite the Register's office, little back from the present pavement, could be seen a stump a foot or so high—of the old whipping post. On the west side of Swede street was a hotel, which was the old stone part of the present Rambo House, it was then the sign of the "Buck," kept by a Mr. Styer, and afterwards by Edmond Wells. In 1818 and 19, it was kept by Wendle Fisher. A new sign was then erected, that of the "Spread Eagle." The owner of this property at that time was Wm. Chain, who was an uncle to Benjamin E. Chain, Esq., Penn street as before stated, was not open from Swede to Cherry. The space between the tavern and the south side of Penn street formed the tavern yard, the stables standing some distance back from Swede street. The two lots south of Penn street from Swede to Main, belonged to Potts. On the lot standing back from Swede, on Penn, was a large two story stone house in which George M. Potts resided. And on the adjoining lot south, there was also a large two story stone house, standing a little off from the pavement, which was the residence of Nathan Potts, Esq., the father of George M. Potts.

George M. and two sons: Ferdinand and Benedict; and two daughters: Henrietta and Mary Ann, that we remember. A little south of Nathan Pott's residence, was a frame stable and coach house belonging to Levi Pawling, in which was kept a pair of horses and a carriage. They were in charge of a yellow man, who was known as "Yellow Nat", or "Pawling's Nat."

No other dwelling existed on Swede street, coming south, until we come near to the river. On the west side upon the bank, was a large two story stone house²¹ belonging to the mill property, which was occupied by James and William Boulton, who carried on milling, making flour for merchant and country trade. And opposite to the dwelling on the east side of the street, standing upon the bank, was a fine stone barn, also belonging to the mill property. There was a large walnut tree standing a little south of the barn, and also one standing a little north of the dwelling. The street passing down to the river at this point required considerable grading in its time. The mill house stood below the present stone wall which runs out to the abutment of the dam, extending from the present canal, before spoken of, out towards the river, and was 45 or 50 feet long. The water-wheel house was in the south end of the building. The tail race to carry off its water, ran east in a straight line, until the north side of the race met the main shore of the river a little west of the DeKalb street bridge, and about half way between that point and the mill. A portion of its water ran directly out into the river, a little below and opposite to the point of the little island. This formed a small island between this point and DeKalb street bridge upon which there was standing three or four large trees. Levi Pawling, Esq., was the owner of this mill property, then known as "Pawling's mill."

The canal that feeds the mills and factories follows the bed of the old Union canal from Swede street to Heebner's mill. Further traces of that canal can be seen between that point and Conshohocken. There was a stone arched bridge over the tail race, a little below the mill, so that it could be crossed to ford the river.

After the Schuylkill Navigation Company had built the
21. Residence of Col. John Bull which is still standing.

dam across the river, DeKalb street ford then became the principal fording place from the town. From the southwest corner of the mill, there was a saw mill which emptied its water from the wheel directly into the river, and backed its water between the shore and the little island. From the west end of the saw mill, there was a stone dam thrown across to the little island; this island, from this side of the abutment of the present Schuylkill dam, extended down the river 80 or 90 yards, and upon which there was about a half dozen fine large trees. The same island extended up the river some distance above the present dam. Immediately above it was a second island; a narrow channel dividing them, but they were connected by a small dam being thrown across. Then some little distance above this second island was a third, also connected by a stone dam. All these islands had more or less fine large trees upon them. From the upper end of the third island, there was a stone dam thrown across the main stream to Barbadoes island, commonly called the "big island," running nearly straight up the river for some distance, then bearing around to the left, and running across touching the big island a little below the old flat landing, and nearly opposite to Barbadoes lane. These islands and dams thus described, backed up the water until it formed a great power and a never failing feeder to the mills. In dry seasons, we have known farmers to come from near Doylestown to get a grist ground, as this mill had become noted on account of its never failing water power. A little distance above the mill, on the bank of the river, was a two story stone house occupied by John Boggs, one of the millers. Some distance farther up, was another dwelling—part stone and part frame, and just east of it was a frame cooper shop. These were occupied by John Moyer, Sr., who followed coopering assisted by his two oldest sons. He made all the flour barrels used by the mill. His sons were Joseph, John and James; he had several daughters, the names of whom we do not remember. Mr. Moyer and his sons were all great fishermen. In the fall of the year, he would set his fish basket below the water wheel of the saw mill and at nights by propping the wheel and raising the gate, so as to allow 3 or 4 inches of water to pass under, would, in some nights,

catch three and four barrels of fish, which he would sell or give away to the people of the town.

Back of the jail yard was a small alley running from Airy street and parallel with Swede to Penn street. And directly behind the Court House on the east side of the alley was a two story stone house which was owned and occupied by Ex-Sheriff Isaiah Wells, commonly called "Gen. Wells." His pump is still standing out on the pavement on Airy street, which was then claimed to belong to his property. At the lower end of this alley near Penn street, was a low stone house, of considerable size, which was said, that, at one time it was kept as a hotel, and that Gen. Washington had lodged there during the Revolutionary war. John Brower occupied a part of this house, and Mrs. Magee (the mother of Edward and William Magee before named) occupied the end toward Penn street. She kept a children's school, teaching them their A. B. C.'s, and to spell and read. It was with her that we received our first schooling. Some time after this house was occupied by Andrew Kitler. He had a son that we remember whose name was Benjamin; he was quite a prominent young man. He was learning the stone cutting trade with Dr. Alexander Ramsey, and was in his eighteenth or nineteenth year, when, on a certain day they had a large heavy slab of marble to move; they were about fixing it on blocks of some height, when it slid from the blocks and caught young Kitler, killing him instantly. Some years afterward this property was owned by John Dykes, who had married the widow Fry—Jack Fry's mother. John Brower had two sons and one daughter: Jesse, William and Molly.

On Green street lane, west side, a little north of the pike, was a two story stone house occupied by Mr. Haycock, the cabinet maker before mentioned; he had two sons, Alfred and Winard. Eight or ten feet farther north was a low frame house. The space between them was roofed over, under which stood the pump that supplied these two houses with water. This last house was occupied by James O'Brien, the father-in-law of Archibald Thompson, deceased, late Court crier. Mr. O'Brien had a son Philip, a promising young man, who died from an injury he received while working at the locks above Bridgeport

when first constructed. He also had several daughters: Abbey was the name of one, and we think there was another named Hatty. Opposite Penn street on the east side of Green, was a large stone barn, belonging to the house occupied by Parson Jones. Some distance north of this, on the same side of Green, was a two story frame house standing against the hill, which sloped down toward the mill race coming from the dam a little distance north, called Houlstein's dam, which received the water from "Saw Mill Run," this being the only water power to supply his mill at that time, now Heebner's mill. This house was occupied by Mrs. Eleanor Rees, who was the mother of James Rees, now residing in Philadelphia. Mr. Rees is a gentleman of rare qualifications, and widely known, as a writer among the reading public. He is the author of the life of Edwin Forrest, the distinguished tragedian; "Shakespeare and the Bible;" "Foot Prints of a Letter Carrier;" etc. His writings and style of writing—have been greatly admired by all who have read them. Mr. Reese is more generally known among literary men and others, under the nom-de-plume of "Colley Cibber," a dramatic appellation. He is among the oldest men living of all those who were identified with the history of the borough, being now in the 80th year of his age. In appearance, Mr. Reese, is seemingly not more than 60. He is an employee in the Philadelphia post office. We have known Mr. Reese from early years. About a fourth of a mile further north, was the buildings of Pawling's farm, occupied and farmed by Nathan Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey had one son, Charles, and one daughter, Molly. Green street lane passed between the dwelling and the spring house. Pawling's farm was considered a first class one, and of considerable size. It embraced all the land between Hahn's farm west of the Jail lane, and the Sandy Hill road, from west to east; and Airy and the Church lots south, and Freedley's and Ross's farm lands; and the woods east of Green street lane, until somewhere near the eastern borough line north, then following near that line to Sandy Hill road. There was also a good sized field lying north of Hahn's farm between the Jail lane and Stony Creek, and Hahn's land south, and lots of Robert Hamil, north. That part of it along Stony Creek was

very rough and hilly, which, extending south some distance on Hahn's land—was called Laurel Hill—on account of its being overgrown with laurel bushes. At the north end of this hill was a coppice extending down to Stony Creek; at the northeast corner of it was a very fine spring known by all as "Pawling's spring." We remember celebrating one Fourth of July in this coppice. There was a small orchard on that part of the farm east of Green street lane, a little distance northwest of the pike and Sandy Hill road.

We will now come to the pike from the south side of it. At the west end of Houlstein's dwelling, there was a lane running down to his mill. A little this side of the mill on the west side of this lane, was a two-story house belonging to the mill. Daniel Sheets occupied this house and carried on the milling business. A little south of Mr. Houlstein's dwelling, on the east side of the lane, was a large barn for the use of his farm: the line or boundary of his farm and building site was from the pike along the lane, just mentioned to a point opposite Lafayette street lane, then west to Green street lane, keeping in line with Lafayette lane, then south to the river, embracing all the land between the pike and the river, down the pike and the river until near where the borough line crossed the pike; also, on the north side of the pike from the creek at the bridge of the pike north to Pawling's farm, and then west to the breast of the mill dam: then following the dam and the race to the pike. This farm, though small, was very productive. The three story brick dwelling now the property of Gabriel Kohn, was built by Dr. Jacobs about the close of our time or a little later, and afterwards came into the possession of John Henderson, Esq., son-in-law of Maj. Houlstein. Mr. Houlstein had two sons: Samuel Houlstein and Branton Houlstein: he also had two daughters, Eliza, married to John Henderson, Esq., and Rachel married to Thos. M. Jolly, Esq. This comprises all the dwellings, &c. in the borough of those days. All the land from the pike above Schrack's dwelling, following around Stony Creek and the river, between the river and Lafayette street lane to Houlstein's farm land, was all in farm lots with few exceptions, of which the description as given points out, and the owners of which were Lewis

Schrack, Sr., John Markley, Sr., Levi Pawling, Esq., and Henry Freedley, Sr. The Schuylkill Dam was built by the Schuylkill Navigation Company in the years 1818 and 1819. Before this dam was built, the river abounded with all kinds of fish, the same as inhabited the River Delaware. We remember a haul being made with a seine at the north of Stony Creek, some time before this dam was built, that resulted in catching a cart load of fish. Leonard Hartranft, Sr., Philip Hahn, Sr., Wendle Fisher and John Vanfossen, the father of Arnold, were of the party.

We will now speak of two other old land-marks, east end and northeast of the borough. The old Swedes' Ford we well remember from the first time that we beheld this noted place. We were struck with wonder and amazement at the sight of the large rope crossing the river from post to post, and the large flat boat with the ropes fastened to it and running through the large pulley that runs upon the big rope, thus spanning the river. Our imagination was greatly excited at the sight of it, and our little minds thought it the wonder of wonders. This ford was the only place at which the river could be crossed, at high water, for miles up and down the river, as at that time we think there was no bridge crossing the river between Reading and Philadelphia, with the exception of Pawling's bridge and probably the one crossing Flat Rock, which made this noted spot more attractive. The old Swedes' Ford hotel, a part still standing, is between the Schuylkill Canal and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. It was owned and kept by Jacob Ramsey, a brother to Nathan Ramsey, before named. He possessed some acres of ground with his hotel. The noted spring which supplies the railroad at the depot just above, was on Mr. Ramsey's premises near the western line of this little place. Mr. Ramsey had three sons: Lewis Ramsey, of the firm of McKay and Ramsey before spoken of, Ellis Ramsey and Michael Ramsey, he also had some daughters the names of whom we do not know. This hotel, some years since, was owned and occupied by Col. James Bush, now deceased. There is another item that we must not forget to mention. It was the large, double trunk pine tree that stood

near the northeast corner of the hotel, and greatly added to the scenery and beautified that noted spot.

We will also speak of the tan-yard which was located on the southeast corner of the pike and the old Swedes' Ford Road, the dwelling was on the opposite side of the pike, standing on the hill eight or ten feet above the level of the pike. A little east of it was a very fine orchard running from the top of the bank at the pike, some hundreds of yards up the hill, and in which was found a number of the old Rambo apple trees and other varieties of that fruit. This property belonged to John Zeiber who carried on the tanning business. Some time later this place was occupied by Samuel Markley, before spoken of, who also carried on tanning for some years. Mr. Zeiber had one son, John Zeiber; he also had some daughters. We remember the name of Mary and we think another was Elizabeth, but we are not certain.

This completes our description of the town; of the houses and their occupants; the streets and lanes, and some few incidents of those days which were taken altogether from memory. But this whole matter seems so fresh to our mind that we feel certain we have not erred in our description thus given, and would further say that all our articles have been approved by James Rees and Dr. Samuel Freedley, who are some years our seniors in age; Dr. Freedley being now in his 83rd year and yet retaining the vigor and strength of many of 65.

We will now give a short historical account of the origin of the borough. The manor of Norriton was originally in Philadelphia county, now comprising the present Norriton township in the county of Montgomery; it was owned by William Penn and called the Penn Manor. In 1704 it was transferred to his son William Penn, Jr., containing 7482 acres; he afterward sold it to Isaac Norris and William Trent, and after they had affected sales of several hundred acres, Mr. Norris in 1712 purchased of Mr. Trent his share of the remaining tract. And after the death of Isaac Norris, that part of it upon which the borough of Norristown is located, came into the possession of his son, Charles Norris, by will, and at his death, his widow Mary Norris sold it, with the island of Barbadoes in the Schuyl-

kill opposite to the borough, containing 88 acres—to John Bull, in September 1741. Rev. Dr. Smith, purchased of Mr. Bull a part of it in 1776, for the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Sometime after, with certain reservations it came into the hands of Rev. Dr. Smith's son, William Moore Smith, who, in 1784, proceeded to lay out the town, and in honor of Isaac Norris called it Norristown. Montgomery county was the same year (1784) formed out of the upper end of Philadelphia county, and the certainty that Norristown would become the county seat, stimulated the sale of lots for a time, but afterward progressed slowly until it came into the hands of John Markley, Sr. Under his management it took a more rapid increase. And in the year 1812 the town emerged from a village into a borough, it then contained 65 houses and about 350 inhabitants. In 1880 the census report gives it 13,063 inhabitants.

The town is situated on the north bank of the river Schuylkill, 16 miles northwest of Philadelphia, and is the county seat of Montgomery County. The main part of the town lies against the hill gradually sloping from Airy street down toward the river, which gives it a grand, picturesque appearance from the opposite side of the river. We must not omit to speak somewhat of Barbadoes island that lies in the river opposite the borough as before stated. It contains 88 acres and was owned by Jonas Umsted (a little after our time), of Upper Providence township, this county, and was considered a first class farm. There were six to nine acres at the extreme upper end of the island in wood, and on it were a great number of fine shellbark trees, and also a large number of pawpaw trees, which made it a great attraction in the fall of the year. And at the lower end of this island, there were also three or four acres in wood that made it a fine cool, shady spot. For many years, in this coppice, the people of the borough celebrated the 4th of July manifesting their love and appreciation for that eventful day of 1776. The celebration of that day was also held several times on the little island, the middle portion. Since the building and raising of the Schuylkill dam, these islands have all disappeared.

This ends our description of the origin of Norristown. If it has afforded the reader as much pleasure in its perusal, as it

has given the writer in its compilation, he shall feel perfectly satisfied, and that his labor has been of a most pleasant character.

NORRISTOWN 65 YEARS AGO

I noticed in the daily edition of the Norristown Register of August 2d, 1881, under the head, "Norristown 65 years ago" an article signed "M. A.", commenting upon the articles written by myself, "Norristown as it was in 1814 and 15," wishing, as he states, to correct some errors, in his estimation, etc.

In the first place he finds fault with placing the streets north and south, east and west. I had not consulted the points of the compass in regard to the streets when writing those articles, but exercised my own judgment according to my recollections, and knowing at the same time that the streets varied somewhat from those points, and since, upon strict inquiry, I find the pike, or Egypt street, runs nearly northwest, although this being the case I cannot see that any reader of my articles could be misled by terming it north and south of the pike, and east and west. If Mr. "M. A." will examine Mr. Buck's history and directory of Norristown and Bridgeport he will find in every case where the residences are along Egypt street, he gives them north and south; on the cross streets east and west.

In the second place speaking of the wagon road on the south side of the pike, passing around the end of the wing wall of the bridge and leading up to the creek, and from the bridge out towards the river to a certain point, there were 50 or 60 feet of ground back from the creek thrown open for a landing place along said creek. He says it should have said that the road ran down the creek. Now our friend "M. A." certainly could not have read my article carefully, or he would not have stated it thus. I made no mention of the road running from the bridge out toward the river. I stated that there was a space of ground between these two points thrown open as a landing place. It only required a road to reach the landing. It has always been termed "up" and "down" the pike, as there was no perceptible descent from the pike out toward the river in the ground, Tak-

ing all this in view, it would be as easily understood by the readers of those articles to term it out toward the river, as to say from the bridge down toward the river. He then refers to the spelling of Mr. Broad's name, and says it should be spelt Brode. I do not remember ever seeing Mr. Broad's name in print or written, but have spelt it as an uncle of mine, by the name of Broad, spells his name. He also surmises that Mr. Broad probably at some later day ran the woolen factory and also kept one of the hotels. Mr. Broad never ran the factory after he sold the property to Mr. Hahn. It is said that he did keep a hotel before Mr. Hahn purchased the property, after which Mr. Hahn made it his private residence and farm house for some years after my dates, when the license was again renewed, all this having transpired before and after the dates of my articles. I did not note all these incidents. He next refers to the little streets and thinks me in error to call them lanes. I have spoken of them as they were being called in the days of 1814 and 15. Green street, DeKalb street, Lafayette street, Cherry street, Barbadoes street, and Airy street were not known by those names at the time of my writing; all the small streets as a general thing being called lanes.

In speaking of the spring back of the stable of the Wheel Pump Tavern, I omitted to state that there was a large buttonwood tree standing a little southwest of the spring house, which made it a nice, shady, cool spot and, as I had stated it had an arch stone house built over it. I would state also that it was covered over with some ground and was sodded, so that a person could pass over it from one side to the other at pleasure. There was also a large buttonwood tree that stood out along the pike southeast of the tavern. Upon one of the large limbs extending out toward the pike, was swung the sign of the "White Horse". This sign was painted by Thomas Watters, about the year 1821. Mr. Watters was a carpenter by trade, and was working at the locks above Bridgeport in 1818 and 19, at which time the locks were built by the Schuylkill Navigation Company, and in dressing some timbers with an adze he cut himself about the knee, from which he became crippled for life, and it was a year or more before he was able to move about

at all. Not being able to follow his trade, and as he could only move about on crutches, he commenced teaching a small school, and at his leisure moments painted signs and the like. The house of late years occupied as the First National Bank, was never occupied by parson Jones, he resided in the dwelling as I stated in my article, at the northeast corner of Green and Egypt streets, and I feel confident that he remained there during his whole stay in the borough. Rev. John James as I stated, resided there. There is an incident connected with myself and Mr. James' residing there, that has made a lasting impression upon my mind. It was while my aunt was nursing Mrs. James that I there learned to drink tea by making it half cream and sugar. Adam Slemmer occupied the house, I think, for a time, while editing the Norristown Register. This was sometime after I left the town. All that I have noted in my articles took place while I was living in the town with some few exceptions. I left the borough in the spring of 1829 and removed to Chester county, and only occasionally visited the town after that, consequently was not posted in the improvements and changes made in the town after that. With regard to McKay & Ramsey, I think it was about the year 1828 that they associated themselves together in business.

Jonathan Thomas removed from Upper Dublin township to Norristown a year or two, I think, after the dates mentioned in my articles, and occupied the store house now belonging to Ex-Sheriff Stauffer, and advertised to be sold shortly at Sheriff's sale, at the southwest corner of Swede and Egypt streets. John McKay came with him when quite young and remained his tender until his death. Mr. Ramsey, before Mr. Thomas's decease, was connected with James Wells, Ex-Sheriff, and kept their store in the frame store house just above the Montgomery Bank, after Mr. Thomas's decease, he left Mr. Wells and went into partnership with Mr. McKay, and occupied the same house where Mr. Thomas had kept his store until they removed to Pawling's corner—which took place after my leaving the town. The frame store house that Wells and McKay occupied was some years after kept by Enos Jacoby.

The steepness of DeKalb street, near the river, seems to be

something new to Mr. "M. A." nevertheless, I am correct in so stating. The cutting of the old Union Canal across the street added considerably to its steepness. And as to Airy street being open to its full width from Cherry to Green, I feel positive I am correct. Not long since my brother, Rev. D. S. R. Fisher, and myself were comparing notes in regard to the width of Airy street and Potter's field, west of the end of Airy street at Cherry and we agreed to its width at the time of my dates. There is one old land mark yet remaining, that stands as a proof of my assertions, that is the pump standing on Airy street at the edge of the pavement back of the Court House. The space between it and the fence was fully as great as at the present time, if not greater, and the fence formed a straight line between that point and DeKalb street. Between the Episcopal Church and DeKalb street was the play ground for the school boys; and the street was of ample width for all kinds of games, such as town ball, corner ball, shinney and the like. And as to there being a deep cut on Airy street from Swede street toward the church, there was nothing of the kind while I remained living in the Borough. It was high ground after leaving Swede street, gradually rising until you came opposite to the Episcopal church. Then there was a gradual decline toward DeKalb street, from which it kept on level for some distance. Then there was more of a descent from that to Green street, although the descent did not interfere in the least with the play ground. There may have been some digging after sand or the like after my leaving the place, of that I cannot say.

As to being in error with regard to Hunter Rattew marrying Sarah Hipple, Conrad Hipple's daughter, I think I am correct in so stating, although it occurred after my leaving the town and I am certain I could not have been misinformed. They lived together but a few years, and then for some cause separated and she went to Philadelphia. Mr. Rattew may have married the Irish girl Bridget after that.

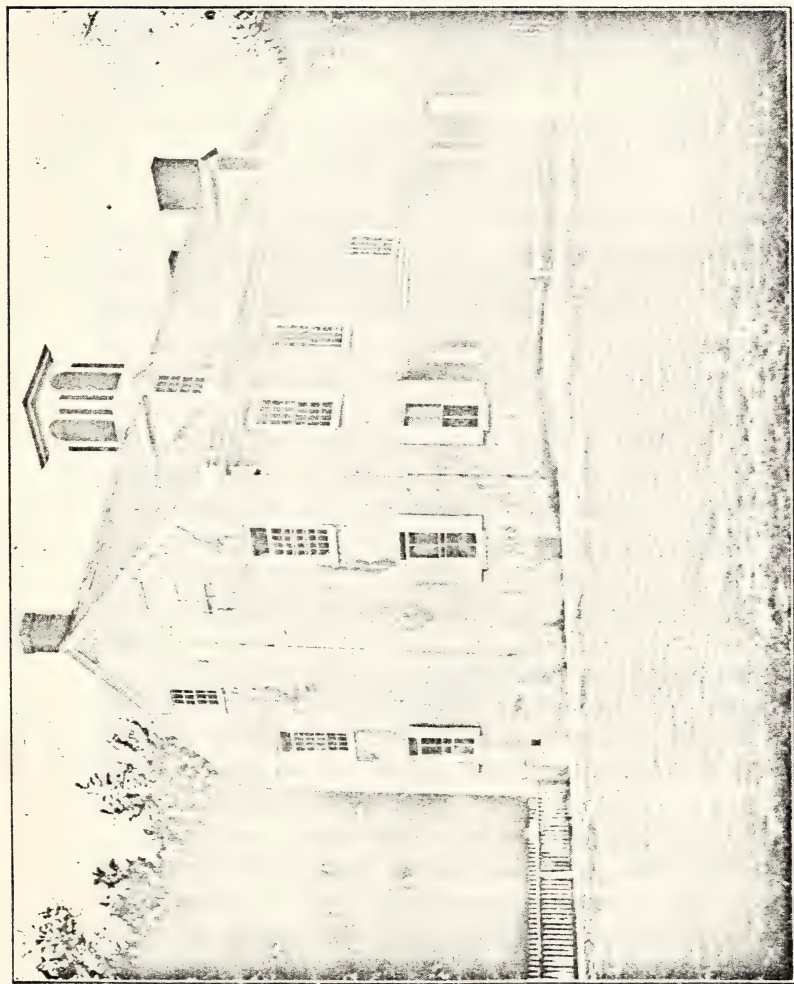
In speaking of the islands, "M. A." makes mention of the big, or Barbadoes, island extending down nearly as far as to Mill street, this is incorrect, it ran down nearly as far as to the bridge. There was a little spot 10 or 12 yards square that would

show itself in time of low water, nearly opposite to Mill street, which was called Goose Island, as it seemed to be a kind of resort for geese along that part of the river. But there was a break in the big island above the Schuylkill dam—30 yards or more—to a little below the dam through which the water passed, and then a little below that again, there was a large cut through which the road passed to ford the river. The lower portion of the island stood about 6 feet above low water. It was never considered to be of much importance, as there were but few trees upon it and was only visited by boys and others when fishing in the river. I omitted to state in what way the occupants of the big island reached the Norristown shore. It was reached by fording the river from Pawling's mill at Swede street, passing over the little island leaving it some little distance above the present abutment of the dam, and striking the big island 200 yards or more above the dam, then running up along the shore on the north side of it. The little island and Barbadoes island were two separate and distinct islands running parallel with each other one hundred yards or more apart. There was no race course on Barbadoes island while I resided in the Borough. If there was any it must have been before my time or after my leaving the town.

I am pleased that Mr. "M. A." has commented upon my articles of 1814 and 15 (Norristown as it was) as it has caused me to add some new facts that may prove to be interesting to some of the readers, viz: The exchange of property from Broad to Hahn, the buttonwood trees, the sign at the Wheel Pump Tavern, Mr. Walters, and the extremes of the big island, and how it was reached by its occupants, etc. And it affords me pleasure to record them.

Philadelphia, August 19, 1881.

Note—Daniel Fisher was born in Hilltown Township, Bucks County, Pa., Oct. 6, 1808, and was a son of Wendle and Eve (Reed) Fisher, and a grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Reed, a Revolutionary hero of Hatfield township, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) County, Pa. About 1810 his parents removed to Norristown. Here his father engaged at Innkeeping, first at what is now known as the Farmers Hotel, at Main and Barbadoes Sts., then known as the "Fountain Inn", and later he engaged at the Rambo House, but at the time known as the "American Eagle". He was a much respected and rather conspicuous figure



LOWER MERION ACADEMY
Cynwyd, Pa.

in public affairs—was an active Democratic-Republican. He serving some years as constable, then under sheriff, for many years was prison warden, etc.

Daniel Fisher served several terms as "Clerk of the Courts" for Montgomery County, and at one time wrote a series of interesting papers on "Early Norristown" which were published in the Norristown Register. He died in Norristown July 22, 1886, a much respected man.—(W. H. Reed).

THE LOWER MERION ACADEMY

By Luther C. Parsons

The mere mention of this ancient institution of learning will most certainly revive in the minds of many of the present generation very pleasant recollections of the days of old Lang Syne. Its founder, Jacob Jones, was a descendant of some of the very earliest settlers of Merion, they having emigrated from Wales prior to the year 1700, and settled in the vicinity of what is now known as Wynnewood. Jacob was born in the year 1713 of the noble stock of Friends. After the death of his father, Jonathan Jones, he went to Philadelphia and after a few years of business life he returned to Merion and on October 22nd, 1743, purchased from his brother Edward Jones a plantation of 231 acres, on which he lived a number of years, until called from earthly labor on March 22nd, 1810, in the 97th year of his age.

Jacob, when 39 years of age, took for a life partner, Mary the daughter of Henry Lawrence of Haverford. She departed this life October 17th 1811. They were both interred in the burial ground of the Merion Meeting, and, sad to relate, no stone marks their resting place.

Jacob was always spoken of by those who knew him best as a man in whom there was no guile. This noble philanthropist had imparted to him a deep-seated concern for the welfare of the rising generation. Seeing that the opportunities of a good education for the young were exceedingly limited, and being anxious that their education should include more than the three R's, "Readin, Ritin and 'Rithmetic," he, when drawing near the close of a useful life, made his will the 10th day of the 6th mo., 1807. In the Testament he devised to five of his intimate friends, namely: Jonathan Jones, Algernon Roberts, Henry

Bowman, Jonathan Walters and David Roberts in trust *forever*, a certain message and piece or parcel of land at the west end of his plantation, and bounded easterly by a laid out road leading to Mary Waters' Ford, southwardly by land of Thomas David, westwardly by Reece Price's land, northwardly by a line to be drawn on the north side of the orchard, making about 8 acres of land, and also bequeathed the sum of 800 pounds for the erection of a building to be used as a school house and a dwelling for a tutor or tutors, and 500 pounds to be by them placed on land security, the income of which to be appropriated to the payment of a teacher for the free education of as many poor and orphan children of both sexes, living in the township of Merion, as the funds would admit of, and without reference to color or creed.

After this liberal minded man has passed from among the living and the trust becoming available, the said trustees proceeded to carry out the instructions contained in the said testament, and in the year 1812 erected the structure known as the Lower Merion Academy. The first teacher to be employed by the trust was Joshua Hoopes, a noted Friend, who after 4 years of faithful service, resigned and was succeeded by Noah Leeds, a noted member of the Society of Friends, who taught 8 years, then came John Allen, who taught 3 years. He had for his successor Newton Milton Boggs, who served 4 years, then came Jonathan Philips, a graduate of the University of Penna., who taught 2 years. He was followed by George Williams, who served 2 years, then came John M. Jones who taught 7 years, then came the genial, graceful and scholarly old gentleman known far and wide as "Uncle" John Levering, who was considered one of the greatest mathematicians and geometricians of his day. He and the late Alan Corson were regarded as authorities on surveying. Mr. Levering strove to teach by love for a period of 7 years. He had for his successor one of his sons, Clifford Levering, one of the most genial natures that ever took a rod in his hand, this good man after 6 years of patient toil resigned for another vocation. Then followed a teacher named William Henry Parker who resigned after serving one year. He was succeeded by William Harrington, who taught 2 years,

then came John Cameron who served 2 years, then followed a teacher by the name of B. F. Rogers who taught 3 years, then came one of Chester County's sons, Israel L. Irwin, a gentleman of taste and literary ability, and by far the finest scholar that ever presided over the institution. This teacher served his calling a period of 23 years, the longest term of any of his predecessors.

The Trustees of this ancient institution have appeared in the following succession: Algernon Roberts served 3 years, succeeded by his son Isaac W. Roberts, the father of George B. Roberts, late President of the Penna. R. R. He served 43 years. Anthony L. Anderson served 6 years. Jonathan Jones served 23 years. Henry Bowman served 22 years. He was succeeded by Anthony Zell, who served 14 years. He was followed by Wm. Warner Roberts who was in service for 41 years. Jonathan Walters was succeeded by Paul Jones in 1822, and he served 35 years. He was succeeded by his son David Jones, who served 30 years. Jonathan Jones was succeeded by John Levering, who served half a century. He was followed by his son, Clifford Levering, who served 6 years. He was succeeded by Perry L. Anderson. David R. Roberts was succeeded by Owen Jones, who was a member of the Board for several years. He was followed by Isaiah Thomas.

Then followed an interval when no minutes were kept. The Board following were Warner W. Roberts, Jonathan Jones, Perry L. Anderson, J. L. Irvin and John L. Ott. After the death of W. Warner Roberts, Jonathan Jones and Perry L. Anderson, the vacancies were filled by Jos. B. Haywood, Silas Jones and Luther C. Parsons. Silas Jones was succeeded by G. G. Reenthaler, he having departed this life was followed by Senator Algernon B. Roberts, who served a short time and then was called to his fathers. He was succeeded by Hervy C. Irwin. Mr. J. L. Irwin was succeeded by Jonathan Jones. The present Board is composed of John L. Ott, President, Joseph B. Haywood, Treasurer, H. C. Irwin, Secretary, Jonathan Jones and L. C. Parsons.

'Tis a source of very great satisfaction to the Trustees and the public to take a retrospective view of the usefulness of

the institution, and in so doing to find that from its walls have gone forth quite a number who have adorned the professions they adopted in after years, and to find so many having risen to positions of prominence in the professional, commercial and social walks of life. Of the professions we notice among those who made a study of Blackstone, the name of Charles Naylor, who in his day served the district of Philadelphia in the National Congress, also Joseph Fornance who became a noted barrister at the Bar of Montgomery County, and served two terms in Congress from 1839 and 1842. Of the Medical profession we recall Dr. Thomas of West Chester, Dr. Isaac W. Anderson, Dr. Jonathan Clark, Dr. Harvey, Dr. John W. Lodge.

One who became distinguished as a teacher was Prof. Rhodes, late of the Philadelphia High School.

Of the Ministerial profession were J. Rush Anderson of M. E. Church, John Porter of Episcopal Church, Wm. G. Russell of the Baptist Church.

Of the Civil Engineer corps were the late John H. Levering, one of the District Surveyors of Philadelphia, and Wm. Many Levering, well known throughout the State, and Lewis K. Lodge, a leading Engineer of the Penna Railroad, Nathan Beach Clark, Chief Engineer U. S. Navy, Edward Wirtz Clark, Engineer U. S. Navy and Edward Latch, Chief Engineer U. S. Navy.

Of those of commercial pursuits were the late firm of Wm. D. Jones and Isaac T. Jones, John Fry, Nehemiah Evans, Jacob L. Stadelman and the late Algernon Roberts, who was the projector of the Pencoyd Iron Works.

Of other professions and callings it is possible to name quite a number who have been and are acquitting themselves creditably in the arena of life and not a few are enjoying the fruit of the labors of their earlier years. Quite a large number have passed from the sphere of action, some of them espousing a noble cause, laid down their lives that the Nation's flag should be preserved from dishonor and be permitted to continue floating over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Of the great assembly of those who have received instruc-

tion here, many remain and are often heard to speak with reverence in behalf of their Alma Mater.

Copy of a letter sent by Daniel C. Getty to his father. Written at Lower Merion Academy, December 7, 1832.

Dear Father:—

I take this present opportunity of sending you a few lines, to let you know, that I am well, and I begin to like this place, now very well.

And I expect that we will come up in two weeks. On the morning of my arrival at the Academy, I entered on the study of the science of Geometry and found it, rather a dull study, but the further I advanced the more light I received, and begin to find it a more interesting study; my other studies are confined to Grammar, Geography and Natural Philosophy, and I expect, in the course of a couple of weeks to commence the study of Globes, and the construction of Maps; being a part of the study of Geography, and I hope by proper attention, to render full satisfaction to my Teacher, and hope to make such advances in the study of the above Sciences as not to disappoint you in your expectations.

The day school has increased somewhat and the number is now between 35 and 40; we expect several new scholars next week.

As this is the first letter, I have ever attempted to write, I feel myself at a loss for matter and I hope this is sufficient excuse for not sending you a more lengthy letter. Remember me to sister Jane, Mary and all the rest of the family.

I am your Obedient Son,

Daniel C. Gettys.

To

Mr. David Gettys,

Norriton Township.

George's Family is tolerably well.

D. C. Gettys.

HISTORICAL REMARKS

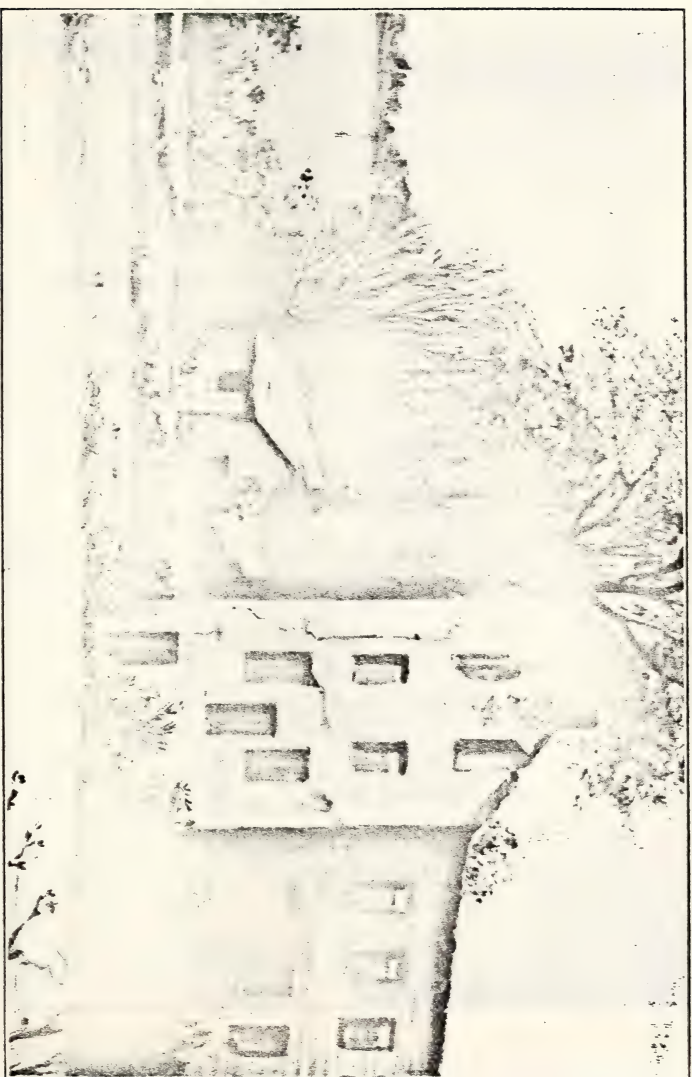
I. Layton Register

One of the greatest American novels, "Hugh Wynne", by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, depicts in romantic language, the early days of hardships endured in the making of this great nation. The scene of the novel is laid here, mention being repeatedly made of the Black Rocks Road, which bounds my property, but which Dr. Mitchell in some way miscalls the "Rocks Road". The black rocks that crop out upon the surface in this neighborhood appear again only in North Carolina.

Beautiful Dove Lake Road, which I laid out and gave to the township some ten years ago, adjacent to Mill Creek, covers the site of the old Amies or Dove Paper Mill. This old relic with the surrounding buildings, erected before the Revolution, disappeared long ago, and a new dam constructed in 1873 by Samuel Croft, then owner, flooded eight acres of the meadow surrounding the old mill.

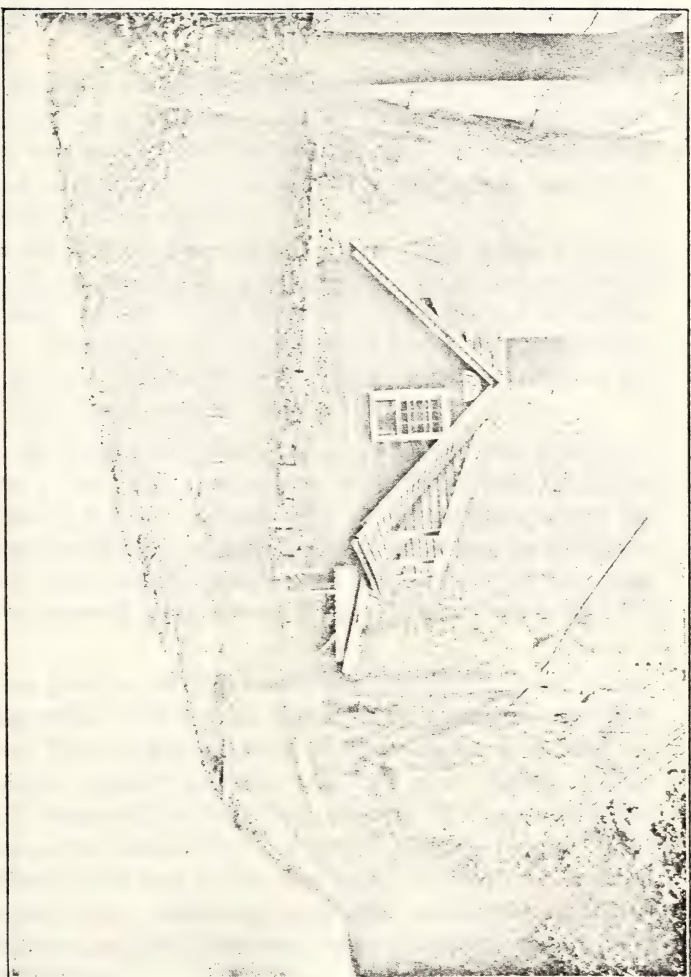
The paper made at this mill was used to print the continental currency. I have in my possession a sheet of paper, showing in water lines the figure of a dove. The ruins of another paper mill are still standing further down the Old Gulph Road, along which the Federal troops marched from Valley Forge to Philadelphia after its evacuation by the British.

But the chief attraction of this vicinity are the vine covered ruins of the old grist mill on my property, which is replete with interesting, yet sad history connected with Revolutionary times. It was owned by John Roberts, reputed a Tory, who carried on the grist mill, the date showing that it was built in 1746. He was accused during those trying days of treason in having supplied the British with flour, and also in grinding glass in the flour furnished to the Federal troops. This last accusation has been challenged, but notwithstanding the good character which he bore, as testified by his neighbors, he was tried, convicted and



The Old Dove Mill.

Which stood on the Black Rocks Road, near Bryn Mawr, Pa.



THE RESTORED ROBERTS HOME OF 1690
Mill Creek Road, near Ardmore, Pa.

hung for treason, his property confiscated and sold for the ridiculous sum of 271 pounds, 6 shillings, which sum it is supposed was paid to his widow.¹ In those days men were swayed by bitterness, as they are even in these days, and an injustice may have been done.

The house in which John Roberts' family lived was for a long time afterward called the haunted house, and tradition said that there was an underground passage between it and the old mill, which is doubtful because such a tunnel would have been below the level of the creek.

This old Roberts property has a date stone showing that it was built in the year 1752. Opposite this house are two small double houses, and one single house on my property, bearing the date 1771. This cluster of old fashioned houses in the midst of great trees and shrubbery and hedges, reminds one of an English rural village, which I named "Crofton".

The old rolling mill upon the south side of the creek was torn down a few years ago because of its dilapidated condition. It was used in the days before water-power was supplanted by steam, and carried on a large business in rolling gold, brass, silver and other metals, which was supplied to jewelers and others, the material being conveyed to and from Philadelphia by teams.

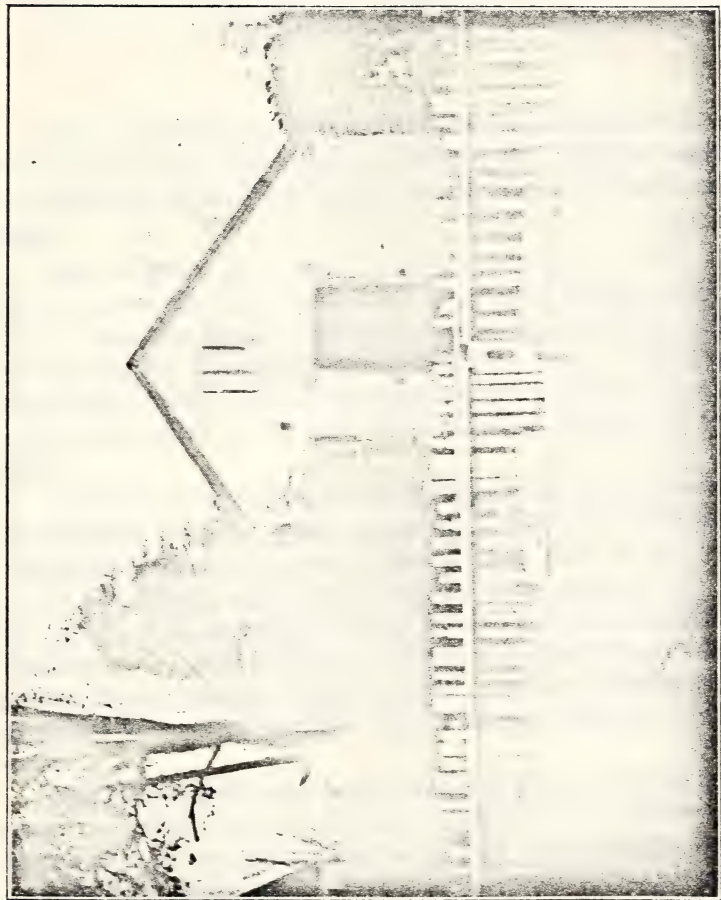
At the junction of Mill Creek and Old Gulph Road is one of five log cabins said to have been erected under the direction of William Penn in the outskirts of Philadelphia, and until recently, when weather-boarded, the logs were visible. This building is supposed to have been erected in 1690, about the same time as the Lower Merion Friends' Meeting House. This old building is now four or five feet below the highway, because in those early days there was no bridge, but simply a ford to cross the creek, and the house was then, of course, upon a level with the roadway.

We haven't the reverence and desire for preservation of ancient buildings here like that found abroad, and in commenting on the fact that our country is young, it is said that while we are making history, and have as yet stored little away, that

1—See Appendix 1.

American shrines are few, and only recent when compared with those of the old world. There is, it is true, a history and a long one, back of the Spanish discovery. The countries south of us are rich in their ruined temples, but abstract antiquity embraces little sentiment. There is nothing tangible about it, so the age simply wonders and passes by. But our shrines, few and recent, are by no means devoid of interest. They are dedicated to the gods that command the purest worship.

Plymouth Rock means more than the "stone of destiny" beneath the Coronation Choir of Westminster Abbey. It is the threshold of a nation. The Pilgrim fathers were an invasion, not of spears, but of ideas. That rock marks the limit of religious and political oppression. Its stony breast was bared to the resistance of the tides. There God had written "thus far shalt thou go and no farther." The old Liberty Bell in Independence Hall is another ark of the new covenant that God made with this western world. Its voice is silent, but its history is written. It lifted up its voice and proclaimed a new dispensation. We reverence the message. While liberty lives, the story of the old bell can never be forgotten.



Yost's Blacksmith Shop
Centre Square, Pa.

MANUFACTURING SCYTHES AND SICKLES IN COLONIAL DAYS

By Clara A. Beck

Near the intersection of two roads, within the limits of historic Centre Square, Montgomery County, Pa., stands a small stone building about which lingers the romance of Colonial industry.

Here in 1740, Jacob Jost (Yost), a German by birth, by trade a weaver and by temperament an artisan, bought a large tract of land and erected thereon a number of interesting and most substantial stone buildings; among these was a forge, and a mill, both of which were destined to become valuable adjuncts in the development of the early manufacturing interests of the State.

It is to be remembered, that in the beginning of our national life, England kept our fathers in leading strings with such grim determination that it became a cant sarcasm that "it was not lawful to fabricate anything in America more valuable than a hob nail." This unfriendly policy toward the manufacturing impulses of the people of the provinces, was especially directed against Pennsylvania, where repressive measures detrimental to skilled labor were brought about through legislative enactment.

But the pioneers were men of iron will and unfaltering purpose, and Jacob Yost and his sons, progressive by nature and keenly alive to the demands of a country whose people were compelled to blaze a trail of civilization across its virgin soil, were not to be turned aside from a determination to help in this discouraging task. so that in a very short time their forge became known far and near as "Yost's Shop and Tool Factory."

To all outward appearance the infant industrial plant was merely a place for shoeing horses, but in reality here sickles and

scythes of such perfect temper and workmanship were made, that the harvesting of Colonial crops was lightened and the financial and social interests of the Province strengthened.

An old day-book, partly in English, partly in German script, dating back to 1768 and forward to 1814, gives most accurate and interesting data, proving the business qualifications of the Yosts. Also it shows conclusively the difficulties which confronted the pioneers.

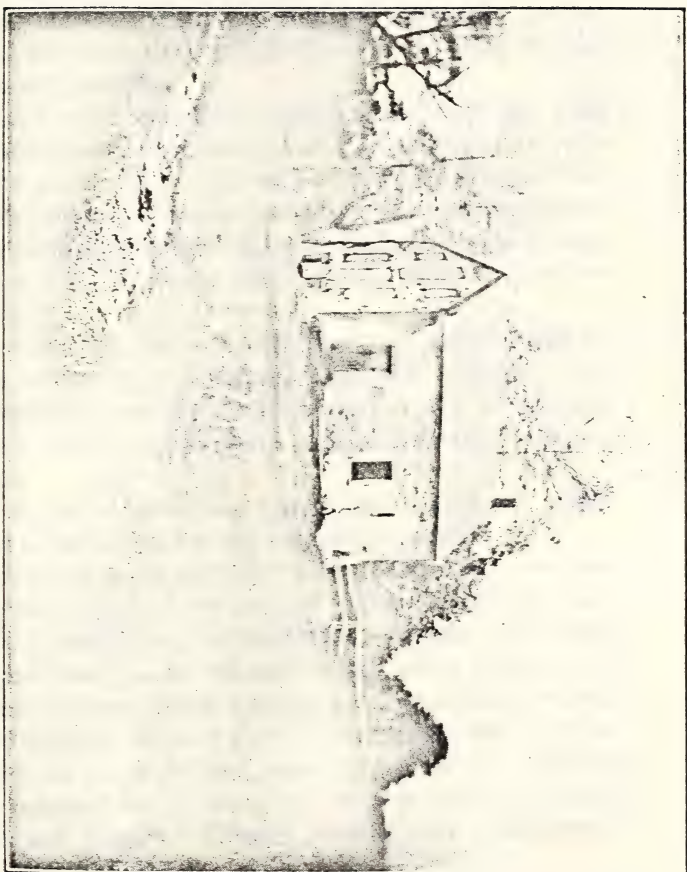
Iron and steel, sometimes "new," sometimes "old" supplied by the Yosts, sometimes furnished by the customer, was brought to the shop to be used for making new tools, or "patching" worn ones.

Sickles and scythes were brought to be "steeled" and "sharpened" and "tempered," and this tempering was finished in an old *hand hewn stone* watering trough, still in existence.

It is interesting to know that back in 1786 a new sickle cost three shillings, a scythe ten shillings and a brier scythe fifteen shillings. But the items in the day-book seem to indicate that the necessity for economy in the purchase of farming implements was so great that a new tool of any kind was a luxury to be paid for in "hard cash," though more often in "labor," and occasionally in "grain" the latter accepted as "equal in value to iron" and so booked in the Yost records.

Although scythes and sickles were the Yost specialty, there seems to have been no mechanical device which halted their ambition or defied their ability to conquer. Their records are pregnant with items showing that people for miles around looked to them for help in cases of emergency; flat irons were "ground;" clocks mended; keys supplied; axes "steeled," stove pipes furnished (by the pound), spades and traps repaired, nails cut; hinges "bent;" sauce pans "hooped;" buckles, tongues and tobacco boxes "put to rights;" chains forged; saws "retoothing" and so on "*ad infinitum*."

Later on the attention of the Colonists was directed to the Yost family as manufacturers of rifles, said to have been unusually superior in quality and workmanship; and the Colonial Records show that at one time during the Revolutionary War—repairs to rifles used in the army, were ordered made in this



YOST'S SAW MILL AND TOOL FACTORY
Centre Square, Pa.

shop; and the pages of the old day-book reflect added interest, because here one man is charged with "A Spring to the Dog of a Gun Lock," others with "A Sight to a Gun" and so on.

Now just as "Yost's Shop and Tool Factory" played an important part in the Colonial dependent era, so "Yost's Mill" came into reputation during the National formative period; built between the years 1774-1781 it lays claim to being the oldest in Whitpain township.

The Yosts were far-seeing; and realizing that the great tracts of timber land about them must be cleared before cultivation of the soil could be profitable, they first equipped their mill as a saw-mill and solicited patronage in preparing lumber for building purposes; for sawing posts; rails; lath; sled runners and furniture, i. e. bedsteads, plank chairs, tables and various other things.

At the same time they manufactured and supplied mill accessories of all kinds; and judging from the frequency with which the millers from the surrounding country are charged with "repairs" the Yosts must have found this a very remunerative business.

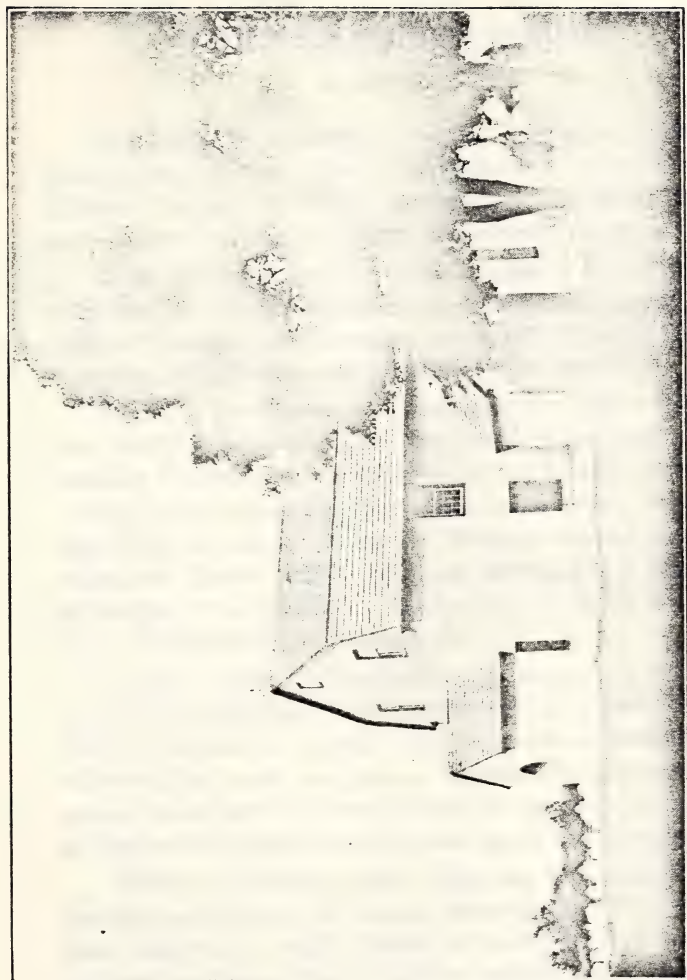
Later on the old mill was turned into a grist-mill which it continued to be until comparatively recent years.

As if to prove the theory of heredity, after nearly two centuries, the late J. Irwin Yost retained within himself the same gifts which distinguished his ancestors. During his student days his proficiency as an ink-and-crayon artist brought him special honors; he was further equipped and qualified to manage the most delicate and intricate piece of mechanism known to the jeweler's art; in his home at Centre Square, he had electrical appliances installed by himself; and all this without training other than that acquired through reading and experimental study.

Just a parting thought. We read with a sense of wonder that in the far state of Dakota "A brigade of six-horse reapers go twenty abreast to cut the grain that waves before the eyes almost to the horizon." While this speaks eloquently of the "march of progress westward," it after all had its *beginning* in the now dismantled "industrial plants" of Colonial days, which

like Yost's mill, falling to ruin,—suggestively appeal to the imagination and stand pathetic in their isolation; or, like the old Forge,—defying the power of time to weaken its walls, and proclaim the glory of their mission to have been the making of early industrial history in our free America.

Note—Published in "The Millers' Review" (The official organ of the State Millers' Association), March 15, 1912. Ed.



THE AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH
at Trappe, Pa.

REMINISCENCES OF TRAPPE

By Rev. Jacob Fry

My boyhood recollections of the Trappe, as a boy, many years back—are that I did not spend much of my time at the Trappe. Leaving for college at the early age of thirteen and a half—I have not been back very much since, except in locations.

As to the spelling of the name Trappe or Trap. In a European trip, in a church at Spiers, in Germany, I found a family name—"Trappe," and thought our nearby locality might have taken the name from some prominent land owner.

It might be suggested by common impression that Trappe was simply a little change from the German word "Treppe," meaning a flight of stairs, from which the locality took its name—there being a tradition that a prominent tavern there—had a high flight of steps. Governor Shunk's coat-of-arms on his monument shows a flight of steps, although it is believed that he adopted this symbol as emblematic of rising from low to high—"Excelsior"—so to speak.

Trappe, in my day, was isolated. It was on the Reading pike pike, but the building of the Reading railroad—four miles away, and the Perkiomen railroad—two miles off—sidetracked it, in a way—and yet could not prevent it producing great people, for a certain prominent historian recalls the unusual number of men of State-wide reputation who grew up in the Trappe.

There was started, about 1830, the first school outside of the big towns where the classics were taught; Washington Hall soon followed; a public library of four-hundred volumes was collected and was open to all the people, and a great musical spirit was cultivated. Everybody then sang by note. Mason Kendall was brought up from Philadelphia every winter to teach music to big classes. A large orchestra of violins, flutes, viols and other instruments—furnished the music in old Au-

gustus Church, and they gave concerts in Norristown, Pottstown and other places, and added to the repute of the place and gave its name great publicity.

Why was the old Lutheran church called "Augustus Church?" I refer to the tablet—"This Church was erected by the Augustana Society" (the society to spread the Augsburg Confession) placed on the front of the church; and I express the firm belief that it was originally the "Augustana Church"—the church of the Augustana confession—changed later by some gradual process to the commoner name Augustus.

I must speak of the stout, old hexagonal church walls; the axe-hewn interior timbers; the numbered pews and book-racks; the pulpit almost in the centre of the church and the altar in front of it. The church-council sat behind the altar, the women on the main floor, and the men in the gallery. The choir went through a tunnel under the men's gallery in order to get to their stalls in front of the organ, which had become dismantled even before my earliest recollections.

I speak feelingly of Governor Shunk, who, as a boy, had been an inmate of the household of one of my forefathers. He had been confirmed in that church, and in his long public life—the Governor never failed to come to service when on his vacations in the Trappe. Rev. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, General Peter Muhlenberg, Governor Shunk and many other great men sleep their last sleep in the old graveyard where one may listen to the musical tinkling of the grazing cattle of the neighboring farms.

In that church I was confirmed; and on October 3d, 1853, preached my first sermon as an ordained Lutheran clergyman when less than eighteen years of age—standing in the same pulpit first occupied by the great Muhlenberg—the father of the congregation. Ten years before, as a boy—I had been present at the centennial of the church's founding, and little thought then that I would be the preacher of the memorial sermon fifty years later which was held on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding!

I must also relate how the young men saved the walls from demolition when—after a terribly devastating storm which al-

most ruined the building—the trustees wanted to raze the whole structure and build anew. The young people realizing the historical value of these stones—started in to save them, and, with the help of Rev. William A. Muhlenberg, a wealthy New York clergyman—the money was raised and the trustees were brought to realize their duty to history. The walls were preserved and the old church restored, and the greatest relic of Lutheranism in America was preserved for generations yet unborn.

THE LAST YEARS OF CHRISTOPHER SOWER

By Daniel M. Anders

At the last annual meeting of this Society held Feb. 22, 1913, I presented to the Society a piece of mortar, or plaster—taken from the foundation walls of the old house occupied by Christopher Sower during the last years of his life, since then I was requested by your secretary—Mrs. A. Conrad Jones, and others, to add, or furnish any further history concerning Christopher Sower—as I knew it or heard it from others. What I have gathered is as follows:—

My father, Samuel Anders who subsequently owned the property in question—told me that during the Revolutionary War period—1776-1777, Christopher Sower lived in Germantown, Pa., and was a printer by trade; he also published a newspaper at the time; that he was a Tory and published articles in favor of the British cause. For this the patriots threatened to burn him out if he did not desist, whereupon, fearful of losing his possessions and probably his life—he stole away from Germantown by night and secluded himself—taking with him his printing press and other belongings—to a little house which was situated in Lower Providence Township, the location of which is about 600 yards from the township line of Norriton, and about a quarter of a mile from the line of Worcester township, and close to the right-of-way of the Montgomery Transit Co. and adjoining the quarry and stone-crusher of the property owned by me.

Mr. Sower—as his tombstone indicates—died on the 26th day of August, 1784, aged 63 years, and eleven months. He is buried in the Methacton Mennonite burying ground. I recently visited his grave and read the following inscription:

“In Memory of Christopher Sower,
who departed this life the 26th day
of August, 1784.”

There are several verses which are scarcely legible, but the first sentence of one of the stanzas is— “Death has conquered me, &c.”

BIBLIA,

Das ist:

Die ganze Göttliche

Heilige Schrift

Alten und Neuen

Testaments,

nach der Deutschen Uebersetzung

D. Martin Luthers;

Mit jedes Capitels kurzen Summarien, auch
beigelegten vielen und nützigen Parabeln:

Nebst einem Anhang

Des dritten und vierten Buchs Esra, und des
dritten Buchs der Maccabäer.

Dritte Auflage.

G e r m a n t o w n :

Getuckt und zu finden bey Christoph Saur, 1776.

FAC-SIMILE OF ONE OF CHRISTOPHER SAUR IMPRINTS, 1776
In the Library of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

RECOLLECTIONS OF SWAMP DOOR

By J. K. Hauck

If I could put, with paint and brush, on a canvass stretched before you, what I have in mind, you would see a one story building, twenty six (26) feet long by twenty four (24) feet wide, known as the Swamp Door School House.

It was built of stone, with three windows on each of the long sides,—two on one end, and two, and a door—on the other end.

The longest side faced on the public road (now known as the Limerick and Colebrookdale Turnpike) passing this marker. Its location was in a corner of woodland now owned by Frank Brunst, about a half mile southeast from here.

Inside was a large stove in the middle of the room and high desks were ranged along the two sides and part of the end. Opposite the door, the desks backed up against the wall. The benches were also long and had no backs. Extra benches were on hand; and in the middle of winter, when the larger boys and girls could be spared from work on the farms, the little folks had to sit on these with their little books on their knees.

On all deeds to purchasers, or buyers of the land dating back to the latter part of the eighteenth century, no mention, or sketch,—is made that the ground on which the School House was located had been given, or deeded—to any one for school purposes—simply allowed it to be used for the purpose of putting such building thereon.

When it was built, or who the people were—who were interested in the plan and purpose, we cannot now determine. No one is living about here at this time, who could give such information. We feel quite sure that it must have been early in the nineteenth century,—about 1800 to 1810. We are reminded that men who lived here not many years later attended school in this house, receiving likely all their school education in it, as

there were then, probably, only Washington Hall at the Trappe and the Hill School at Pottstown—as places of more advanced education.

Such places, or schools, as Freeland Seminary (now Ursinus College); Frederick Institute, (now the Mennonite Home); Mount Pleasant Seminary and Perkiomen Seminary—were hardly thought of then much less in existence.

It must have been a school in which teaching was of the right kind, as we know, that the then pupils became good citizens; farmers, business men of this community—one of them a Justice of the Peace.

We recall that occasionally the school-house was used for debates between men of this and neighboring communities.

Dr. Harbaugh's description of "The Old School House at the Creek," fully applies to this house:—

"The long desks ranged along the walls
With books and inkstands crowned;
Here on this side the large girls sat,
And then the tricky boys on that—
Around the cosy stove, in rows,
The little tribe appears—
What hummings make those busy bees—
They better like their A. B. C's
Than buzzing at their ears.

Those benches are by far too high;
Their feet don't reach the floor;
Full many a weary back gets sick
In that old school house at the creek."

In this school house my school days commenced. It was still a pay school. A few cents per day, for each child, when in attendance; and the teacher boarded around, that is,—some family would give him board for a week and then another, and so on—during the school term. A few of the pupils, at this time—as I remember them, are still living—some of them in this community.

The grounds around the house, and the woods east and south of it—were the play grounds. We had no "now-a-day"

school appliances, but there were large boulders to climb and slide off; smaller boulders to hide behind; trees to climb, and a hill to slide down, when snow was on the ground, or else play "fort." Several good size persimmon trees nearby furnished considerable excitement; the boys climbing the trees or battering them with large stones to shake down the fruit—and then the scrambling for the luscious and even mouth-puckering persimmons. The smaller boys and girls played "tag" or looked on; the larger girls swept the school room, and played "ring," and if the larger boys did not join in—they perhaps played "Ball over" (over the School house roof). We were not initiated into the later sport of base ball; but altogether were as happy a set of children as could be found any where in those days—under similar circumstances.

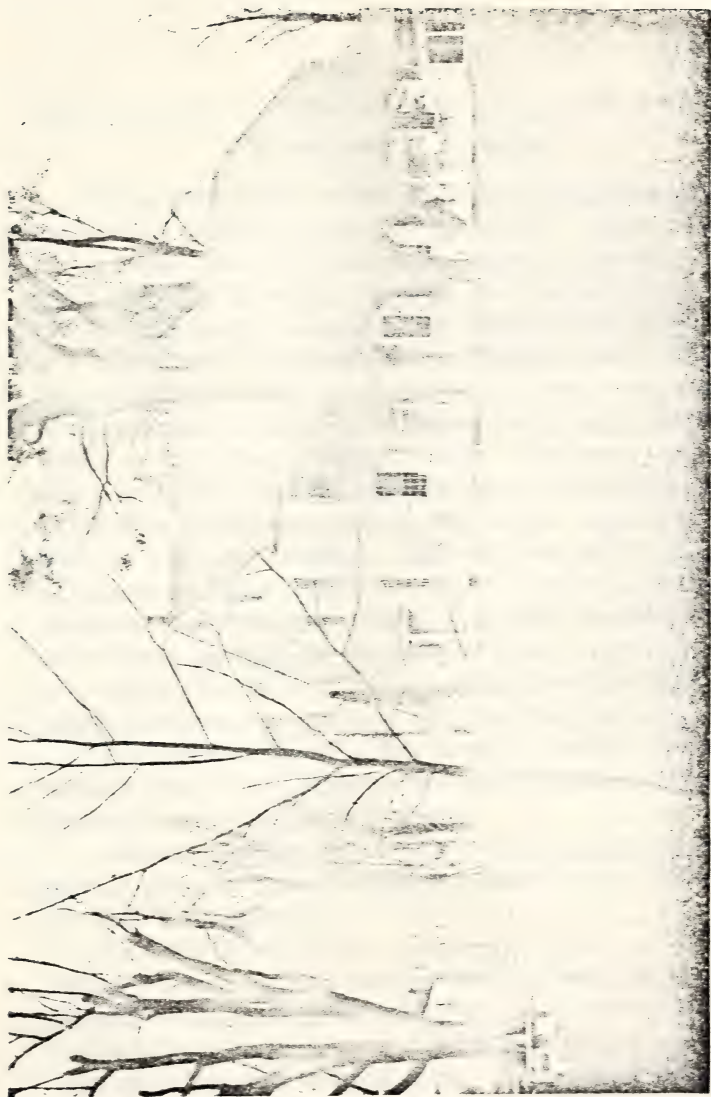
Early in the 1850's, Montgomery County, or New Hanover, at least, was one of the townships accepting the Public School System—and the old pay-school system was abandoned. We have not learned the exact year when this change took place, but we remember that the old school house was at first used under the new system. In 1853 the new school house was built in the village just above here, and the school was transferred to it and the old house was left standing vacant. The house stood thus for a number of years, but one night about fifty years ago, it was discovered to be on fire; origin of it was of course unknown. The debris has been removed; the foundation only remaining. A cluster of four trees, measuring twelve, eighteen, twenty-six and thirty inches—in diameter, respectively, are in the center of the place once occupied by the old school house, these alone mark its site.

A child hears the older people relate things that—unless particularly connected with some other fact—pays little or no attention to them. This was my case. Not counting that arrow-heads were found on the little farm—my boyhood home—about a half mile from here, indicating that sometime Indians roamed around, and little leaden bullets were also found on the same tract—with the simple statement by my elders; "dropped by the soldiers." On the same tract is a spring, which, in my time—seldom went dry, and if properly cleaned out, showed the

water *blue*. The reason for this, I cannot tell. Probably something in the nature of the soil around it was the cause, but it was sometimes remarked—that the soldiers “dug it out”—and sometimes only, that “they drank there.”

On the hill back of us, is a point I know, that, on a very clear day, one can see the steeple of the Church at the Trappe; and it was frequently said that General Washington and his officers, with glasses, took observations from this place, spying if the English army were coming in this direction. Since the Society's outing here several years ago, covering the points around Camp Pottsgrove, coupled with the fact that the Camp was around here—these statements come to me, and are easily applied.

But to go back to our old school house again. Why was it called the Swamp Door School House? Between the hill back of us, and across from the location of the school house to another hill, known as “Prospect Hill” or “Prosse Hill”—is a valley, or sort of ravine. Here the main army was camped, just a little west of us; and some traditions state that the cavalry horses were quartered in the ravine below. This is plausible. Another tradition is that reports reached here, that the English army was advancing this way; and that the soldiers and inhabitants felled trees over each other, in this ravine, as a sort of barricade, and sent word back to the advance guard of the enemy, that beyond this point was a swamp dangerous to pass through. We can of course see the connection. “Falckner Swamp” was just beyond; and the word “Swamp” (not meadow)—was a delusion; and the trick, if intended as such—was the supposed origin of the name of the locality—Swamp Door—and as such—I have always known it. As a native—in boyhood and young manhood years in this community—I feel proud, that we can claim some local interest, and some historic prominence—in the struggle for freedom, that resulted in the building of a nation in which we all can be a happy, free people.



GWYNEDD MEETING, NORTH WALES
as it is today

HISTORY OF GWYNEDD MEETING AND VICINITY

By Mrs. Mary H. F. Merillat

In the year 1698 a colony of Welsh immigrants settled in this section, calling the tract "North Wales." Some time later it was divided, the lower part being named Gwynedd, a Welsh word, meaning "all white," from the fact that when the settlers first saw the country the ground was covered with snow.

The colonists were divided in religious views. One portion claimed the name of Quakers; the other were members of the Church of England. Neither body had a building in which to hold their meetings. John Hugh and John Humphrey, living in one of the largest houses in the colony, and two of the most prominent Quakers offered their home in which to hold the First-day meetings. Robert Evans, of the Episcopal, or Church of England faith, offered his home as a place to hold the services of their gatherings. This latter denomination had no ordained minister, but Cadwallader Evans, a brother of Robert, supplied the place of one by reading from the Welsh Bible which contained the service of the Church of England.

It is recorded that on a clear First-day morning the meadow bank in front of the house of the two Friends was filled with listeners to hear the Quakers preach.

The two societies were united in this way, according to the account given by Jesse Foulke, of Penllyn, a great-grandson of Edward, the emigrant.

As Cadwallader Evans was going, as usual, to his brother Robert's to conduct the Sunday morning service, he felt impressed, when passing the road that led to where the Friends held meetings, to go down and listen to what was said, but he went on to his own meeting place. He mentioned this at his service to his companions, and they all urged him to go to the Friends' service the following Sabbath morning.

It is also stated that after hearing William Penn preach on several occasions, these two brothers, Cadwallader and Robert

Evans—were so deeply impressed that they, with their little band, united with the Quakers.

A private house could no longer accommodate the congregation, so a meeting house of logs was erected in 1700. Twelve years later a larger house was needed, and that was built of stone, and erected on the site of the present spacious edifice, the subscription paper for the amount to rebuild was written in Welsh, and bears the dates 1710-1711; there were sixty-one signers, headed by William, John and Thomas Evans. This paper is still in possession of a member of the Foulke family.

Joseph Foulke, in his journal, says of the new house; "It was a commodious stone building, hip-roof style, and had two galleries for the youth. In tearing it down to erect a still larger one in 1823,—(the building now standing)—no little difficulty was found in separating the ancient woodwork."

The first meeting held in the spacious new house occurred the nineteenth of Tenth-month, of the year of building, 1712, and was well attended. On the twenty-second of Twelfth-month, 1714, the first monthly meeting was held, permission having been granted by Haverford Monthly Meeting and endorsed by Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting.

As a further appreciation of the new house a double wedding was solemnized the same year when two cousins were married, Sarah Evans to Edward Jones, of Radnor, and Ann Evans to William Roberts, of Merion. These young men lived in the Welsh settlement beyond the Schuylkill. After the wedding ceremony they mounted on horseback, each on the same horse, with her husband, cantered down the Plymouth road to the ford in the Schuylkill river at Spring Mill, thence to their new homes in Merion and Radnor, where, we doubt not, a generous wedding feast awaited the arrival of the wedding parties. The old horse-block is still standing in the meeting house yard.

Two of the original homes settled in this colony bear the names of the early Welsh ancestors. To the left, as we drive up the pike from Springhouse, is the ancestral home of the Evans, now occupied by Joseph Evans and family.

Owen, son of Evan Evans, emigrated from Wales in 1698, and located on this farm. Seven generations have lived there.

It is indeed a typical old homestead, and while every convenience and comfort has been supplied the style of architecture has not been changed.

Edward Jenkins, son of John Jenkins, from Wales, located in Gwynedd prior to 1796. In that year he opened a store for general merchandise. He was also postmaster at Gwynedd. At that period all merchandise was conveyed in large Conestoga wagons, drawn by four or six horses, while travelers and the mail were carried in stage coaches. The mail was left at the Springhouse store, about one and one-half miles south of the Jenkins store, then the junction of the Bethlehem and Sumneytown turnpikes, as the route of the stage was up the Bethlehem pike. The mail was carried back and forth from this point by a special carrier. In those days there was only one mail a week and later two, and after the completion of the North Pennsylvania railroad a daily one. The post office was established one hundred and seventeen years ago, and has always had a member of the Jenkins family as postmaster. The home is now occupied by Mr. Walter H. Jenkins.

One incident we deem worthy of mention is about a regular attendant at the mid-week meetings held on Third-day mornings. "Old Tag" was a very important member of the family of Hugh Foulke, Sr. It was Tag's privilege to follow the family carriage on meeting morning, but he was never known to leave the place at any other time. On one occasion, however, the family was going on a social visit, their way passing the meeting-house. Tag followed the carriage out the meeting-house road, but as they passed the gate the old dog stopped, looked after the receding carriage, turned, and at a fast pace went home and was never known to follow the carriage after this incident.

One of the great events for this section of the country was the building of the North Pennsylvania railroad in 1855-1856. A single track was built and the first train ran June 1st. The company owned four locomotives, their weight being about thirty tons. They erected a turn-table at the station, so as to turn the engines at the station that they would be headed the right way on the return trip. It was necessary to uncouple the

engine from the tender, as the table was but fifteen feet in length. When the trains speeded to twenty miles an hour, it was called the "lightning express." The first two locomotives to run on the line were the "Aramingo" and "Shackamaxon." They were entirely destroyed in the terrible accident, due to a collision of two excursion trains in July, 1856, just below Fort Washington station.

On Fifth-month 30, 1898, a large gathering in the old meeting house of the descendants of Edward and Eleanor Foulke, the emigrant from Wales, was held to celebrate the bi-centennial of their coming to America. On the following day a still larger body assembled to celebrate the settlement of Gwynedd township.

In 1893, Fifth-month 10th, it was the scene of a large wedding when Dr. I. Daniel Webster and Anna Jenkins were married in a public meeting, reviving a custom of the earlier times. It had been over fifty years since a wedding ceremony had been solemnized in this house and in connection therewith was an incident that was very unusual, two of the overseers of the wedding having acted as bridesmaid and groomsman in the house fifty years previously.

Gwynedd meeting of the past and present will long remain a live factor on the pages of history. The panorama of scene ever changing as the years roll on, face by face they vanish, but new ones will come forth to take up the life work others have lain down.

We recall amongst our earliest recollections the days when, with our parents, we drove five miles every First-day and Fifth-day mornings to attend meeting. Our dear old uncle, Joseph Foulke, sat at the head of the meeting. His voice was usually heard in exhortation. After meeting, all the little folks had their hand shaken by the elders, and a word of approval for their presence was spoken, which made the little ones feel the importance and necessity of attending regularly. So great was our adoration for this dear old uncle that in our childhood's fancy we could not be reconciled to any other preaching, so that on several occasions when our grief became too audible we were

led out of meeting by our gentle mother who assured us that other ministers had a right to speak in meeting.

Ellwood Roberts, in his beautiful poem, entitled "At Gwynedd Meeting," most graphically portrays a First-day morning service in the following selected lines :

"We enter! There at least we find
No place for fashion's show or pride
What need of these? A peaceful mind
Is greater joy in all besides.

* * * * *

The outward silence deeper lies,
No motion stirs the summer air;
We hear a voice at length arise—
An earnest voice in solemn prayer.
'Grant, Lord, that we may worship Thee
In spirit and in truth to-day,
Let every heart turn willingly
To Thee! O Christ! the only way.
Teaching as never man has taught,
Oh make us feel our weakness now
That we without Thy strength are naught.' "

Thus have the dear ones who spoke the word of God, whose words are truly sanctified by His living presence, and others whose lives were dedicated to the Christian work of their society—been gathered home like sheaves in the golden autumn harvest.

But :

"Their children now in silence sit
In meditation and in prayer,
And listen to the voice within.
A benediction seems to fall
As hand clasps hand in greeting—
Upon those gathered in his name
In quaint old Gwynedd Meeting."

JOHN FOTHERGILL—THE FAMOUS PREACHER OF THE FRIENDS

By Frances M. Fox

In "Historical Collections of Gwynedd," by Howard M. Jenkins, I read the other day, this sentence which set me thinking—writing of the visits of Friends to the old Meeting he says "such extraordinary occasions as an appointed meeting by a famous preacher,—Thomas Chalkley, or John Fothergill, *perhaps*"—? To clear up the doubt shown by the word "*perhaps*"—I have read a very quaint old book called "John Fothergill's Journal" which I brought out of its hiding place, and placed on our shelves. From this Journal it is evident that the old walls of the stone Gwynedd Meeting of 1712 *did* re-echo to the inspired and inspiring words of Fothergill. His life and labors, and his incessant journeyings are worthy of our study.

John Fothergill was born in Wensleydale, Yorkshire, England, about 1677. At the age of six or seven years old he says, "being at some little Play with another Boy, through the force of a sudden Temptation, I swore an oath, which notwithstanding it was to a Truth, yet—so affected my mind with sorrow and Remorse, as made a lasting Impression on my Judgement,—that I never did the like on any occasion." Another thing he is inclined to mention, "when I was about twelve or thirteen Years old, which was after my Mother's decease, a strong inclination took place in me to have a Coat made with some more Resemblance of the Mode or Fashion of the Time, than in the plain Manner which I had, with other Friends, used,—and prevailed upon my Father to grant it; but I was made so uneasy in it, almost at the first wearing—and the more so in using it,—that I was indisputably satisfied, both that the Enemy of all Good worked in the earthly Affections,—of the Youth especially, after the unsteady Corruptions of the depraved World, in its changeable and vain Fashions in Dress and Clothing, in order to lead into the broad Way, and by Degrees into the wide



DR. JOHN FOTHERGILL, a famous Quaker Minister, 1677-1744

World, one step making way for another. And on the other Hand,—that—the Spirit of Truth doth appear against, and reprove—such vain Desires and Inclinations.”

“Another Thing is fresh in my Remembrance, which I am not easy without mentioning: There was in our Meeting an ancient and truly valuable Minister; and when I was about sixteen or seventeen I was often affected with discouraging reasonings in myself; How we should do? And what would become of us when he died? Under this anxious Thoughtfulness I was induced to consider, how and by what means, he was made so valuable and serviceable: and—I have reason to believe, the like Thoughts affected some others of our Youth in that Meeting, also to advantage.” * * A year after the Minister was taken away by death and we read: “two Years after—there were Five of us engaged by the Truth to open our Mouths in the Ministry of the Gospel, to the Satisfaction and Comfort of the Meeting.”

* * *

“When I was about the Age of 19 my Father was removed by death,—and now, in my 20th Year—I was often more apprehensive, that something of the Ministry of the Gospel would be laid upon me.—But I was very much afraid of being mistaken, as well as backward about so weighty a Word and put it off one Time after another—near about a Year,—but when the Time came indeed,—I had no Scruple of its being certainly the holy Requiring.”—At (or about)—the age of 22 he feels a concern to visit Friends in Scotland, and with some other Friends likewise so concerned,—visits Carlisle, in the West of Scotland, “Glasgow and some other Places, where we had satisfactory Meetings, and came to Edinburgh:—and tho’ we met with abusive Treatment in several Places,—by the mobbish Part of the People—casting stones or any other Matter at hand; which was a very frequent Practice and continued many Years, yet we were preserved from any material Hurt.” * * *

Though he had given up house-keeping some time before this journey, yet he kept “a little ground in my own Hands for some necessary Employ, which I loved and believed was good for the Body, and a beneficial Stay to the Mind.” But some farther Concern and Drawings to leave home coming upon me,

I thought it best to dispose of that Land and Business also." Often, however, working for his friends,—for a living, and because he loved to labour with his "Hands in the Creation."

From 1701 to 1706 we find him giving his Testimony in England, Ireland and Scotland. At Glasgow there is trouble again with the "mobbish people" when something remarkable happened,—“a Soldier, an ENGLISHMAN, began to cry aloud three Times, as if he had some public Proclamation to make;—‘Behold the godly Town of Glasgow, how they entertain Strangers’!—Which Reproof made the People so ashamed, that they mostly took to their Houses and got out of Sight.”

During the year 1705 a Concern to visit the churches in America, grew more constant and weighty, and finding a young man of his country,—“William Armistead,—likewise drawn that Way, gave up to go along with me, and in the second month of 1706” they sailed from London, being detained longer than usual in the Channel, “because it was at that time War between England and France, and the French had abundance of Privateers out at sea. We were three Weeks ere we parted from the Land’s End, and were ten weeks more in getting to that Port in Putuxt¹ River, Maryland, yet we had a safe and good passage, tho long.”—“After we had staid a few Meetings with Friends thereabouts, who received us with great Chearfulness, finding our mind drawn towards Philadelphia, and so northward to New England, we crossed Chesapeak Bay and had some meetings with Friends on the Eastern shore of Maryland, and so into the lower counties of Pennsylvania; we got to Philadelphia before the Yearly Meeting there, which was large and comfortable to us and Friends, by the gracious and powerful Influences of the Love of God, whose glorious Name was worshipped and praised for his Mercy and Salvation.” Whether in passing thro these “lower counties of Pennsylvania” in 1706, John Fothergill visited Gwynedd, can not be told positively, but in his second visit in 1721 he certainly gives the impression that he is re-visiting old friends.—

Continuing the Journal, we find him passing through Long Island—traveling near two hundred miles thro the colony of
1—Patuxent

Connecticut, with an "intermitting Fever, upon him", having almost no appetite to any food: but getting to Rhode Island and making "Trial of some Medicines, tho' to little Effect"—he resolves "to go forward in the service, in the Ability that Truth would be pleased to afford." He attends meetings at Sandwich, Plymouth Colony, Boston, Dover, and Salem,—and finds it a very exercising and trying Time, by reason "of the bloody Incursions that the Indians then frequently made upon the English, being hired by the French about Quebeck, which lies behind New England to the North-west; so that many of the English Inhabitants were frequently murder'd in their Houses, or shot, or knocked down on the Road or in the Fields; some were carried away Captives; and those whom they killed, they cut with their great Knives round the Head about the Skirts of the Hair and then pulled the Skin off the Head; and for every such Skin, which they called a Scalp, they were to have a Sum of Money. *** We were in these Parts, backwards and forwards a considerable Time, having many meetings, before we were clear to leave them." From Boston, by way of Rhode Island they came to New York and having drawings to visit some towns towards the East-end of that Island,—“we accordingly went to several Towns, and procured Liberty to have some Meetings, though there was a rigid Presbyterian People there-away.” The Preacher and the Justice had them arrested—and there is an interesting account of the trial; and they are set free because the Justice says: “I confess I was at the Meeting with these People Yesternight, and heard Christ preached truly;”—“We were then easy to go forward, and came to Flushing in Long Island,—thro Part of the Jerseys into Pennsylvania; in which Provinces we traveled, visiting Meetings most of the Summer, having many large and heavenly seasons,—some were convinced and gathered to the Truth;—and one young Woman, who after some Time became engaged in the Ministry of the Gospel, wherein she was made a very eminent Instrument to the Help and Comfort of many in divers Parts of the World.”

After journeys to Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, “visiting some few Places in Pennsylvania and the Jerseys,”—he sails for Barbadoes, then goes to Antigua and to Jamaica, and

"When we became clear in our Spirits, and easy to leave the Place, we prepared for our Departure for England and embarked the 18 of the Eleventh Month, 1707; were Eighteen Days in beating thro' the Windward passage to Crooked Island, from whence it is called Thirteen Hundred Leagues to England, which Distance we ran in Twenty-six Days. The Master and Mariners agreed that they never had so expeditious a Voyage,—and through heavenly Protection it was safe. * * * It was now a Time of hot War betwixt England and France, and a great number of Privateers were out, yet we were preserved out of their Hands, as well as the Perils of the Sea.—Which was owing to divine Mercy, and not to any Merit of ours."***

Not long after he returned from this, his first visit to America,—he married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Houghton, of Sutton, in Cheshire, "a family of esteem in the world, and walking answerable to our holy Profession,—and eminently distinguished by that most valuable Ornament, a meek and quiet Spirit." * * *

In 1709 we find him accompanying his Uncle Gilbert Thompson for a Tour in the south-west parts of England. For ten years he remains at home caring for his wife and children, but on the death of his wife in 1719 he places his seven children in the care of relations and proper persons. "In the year 1721, an exercise of Spirit, in the moving of the Word of Life, came upon me to visit Friends in America again; and tho' the Matter seemed somewhat strait at the first, because my Wife being taken from me, I was left with a pretty many young children; yet the moving of the Word in my Heart was so powerful, and sweet, that I was soon made perfectly willing to give up all and to follow the Lord freely. * * I settled my affairs and in the latter end of the first month, 1721—set out for London, having Laurence King as a companion in the service. * * * Finding a vessel bound to Virginia we left London on the 6th of the Third Month. We were favored with a safe Passage and arrived in York-River the 6th of the Fifth Month."*** Passing over many pages of the Journal, telling of his travels thro' Maryland, Virginia to Carolina and back again, I only mention, that on the 30th of July 1721 he "went to a meeting held at Mattocks, at

Justice Washington's, a friendly Man, where the Love of God opened my heart towards the people much to my Comfort and their Satisfaction; and the Holy Name of the Lord was glorified."

On the 20th of September, he sets out "towards a Part of Pennsylvania", and the 1st of the tenth month is at Chester; the 4th at Philadelphia—at William Fishbourne's—where he meets *many near Friends of his former Acquaintance*, Oct. 25th he was at the monthly meeting for business at Providence; then to Newtown; Haverford; Radnor, and to Merion—where he lodged with John Roberts. —On Nov. 2nd he was at Frankfort lodging at Jonathan Dickinson's. Between the 2nd and the 10th he went to meetings at Byberry, Neshaminy, Bristol, Falls, Macclesfield, (Makefield) Wright's Town, and Buckingham. "The 11th to North Wales, where we lodged at John Evan's Gwynedd and had a good Meeting that Evening with a large Number of Friends, who came to see us. The 12th being accompanied by several of those and some other Friends, we went to a new settled Place called Great Swamp, Bucks Co., and tho' the snow was deep, and the frost very severe, yet thro' the Lord's goodness we got well through, and had a good little Meeting with some Friends and other People, who came in that Evening at Peter Leicester's."

Just here I want to show you that this North Wales Meeting, was Gwynedd Meeting, by a few quotations from "Historical Collections of Penna.," by Sherman Day, published in 1843 and from "Historical Collections of Gwynedd" by Howard M. Jenkins published in 1897.

"A place called North Wales was settled by many of the Ancient Britons, and divers meeting-houses were built,—at North Wales—a meeting-house was built in the year 1700, which was but two years after the arrival of the Welsh Friends to that place.—They called the township Guinedd,—in *English*, North Wales." "Gwynedd was a geographical designation among the Welsh people more than a thousand years old, when the settlers gave it to their little block of land in Penna., and had been applied to the northern part of Wales, the last stronghold of the Welsh.—By the *English* that region was called North

Wales.—What the Cymry called Gwynedd, the English knew as N. Wales.—John Fothergill, being an Englishman used the name “North Wales.”

Returning to the Journal. “The 14th we were at the Meeting of Friends at North Wales, which was very large, several other Professors coming in, and the Gospel was preached in its own Authority and Wisdom, and was exalted in many Souls, to the Comfort of the Living, and the Glory of the Lord of all our mercies. We had another Meeting that Evening at the House of Hugh Foulke, which was much to our satisfaction. The 15th we had a Meeting at Plymouth, a good, informing and profitable Season. And the 16th we were at North Wales Meeting again: A large solidly edifying Meeting it was, and the Lord’s power spread weightily over many Hearts.”

By way of Horsham, Abington, Germantown he goes to the Jerseys, returning to Philadelphia, Dec. 4, 1721, and attends the burial of an “antient” Friend, Nicholas Waln, at Fair Hill:—“at which Place a great Concourse of Friends and others were met.”—“The 14th we went to Lewis Walker’s, in the Great-Valley, where we had a large Meeting out of Doors, with many other Professors, all were very attentive. * * The 15th we went over to Perquimmin, where we had a good Meeting,—lodged with Joseph Richardson in whose House we had a serviceable humbling Season with his Family, and some others who came in that Evening. * * The 16th we went up the Country to a new settled Place above Manhatawny, where were gathered some Friends and others. * * The 17th we had a Meeting in the Baptist Meeting-house near Skippolk, at the Request of some of them; we parted lovingly, and came that night to Evan Evan’s at North Wales, and were, on the 18th, at Friends Meeting there, which was large, and it being First-Day, we had another in the Evening; in both which, the great Lord and Fountain of Life and Wisdom graciously owned us, and prevailed upon the Hearts and Understandings of many, both of Friends, and some who professed not with us.”***

“In journeyings oft, in labors more abundant,” the years 1722 and 1723 are filled,—from Nantucket and Bayside (where

he staid with John Rodman), then through the South and down to Barbadoes—then home again in April 1724.

At the Yearly Meeting he gives this description of the people of Pennsylvania, "we found an enquiring Openness in divers Parts among People of several Professions; some were convinced of, and, we hope, received the Truth in the Love of it: There is a large Body of religiously-minded People among Friends, who are growing up in a true Care for the Honour of Truth; tho' these are mixed with many earthly-minded, and some loose libertine People, who occasion much exercise to the Right-minded: Yet the Lord's Goodness and Care is near and over that Country, and his Truth prospers in it." * * *

His next visit to America is in 1736, and, as usual—lands in Maryland and goes through the Wilderness of Virginia, to the Forks of the Rappahannock and crossing the Blue Mountains comes into Penna.—to Plymouth, and on the 28th of Mar. is again at North Wales Monthly Meeting for business, "wherein we were comforted together:" and also the next day at Perquimmin, then on to Oley, and likewise at the Furnace near Manhattawny, and at the Great Swamp, through Bucks Co., north to Whiteplains, N. Y. May 7th 1737 he was in Dover, N. J. and on July 6th we find him in Bethlehem, Penna., and in Sept. he makes his final visit to North Wales and was at two Meetings there, "wherein divine goodness was manifested to our Comfort, and the holy name was honoured." He returns home, by way of the Island of Barbadoes.

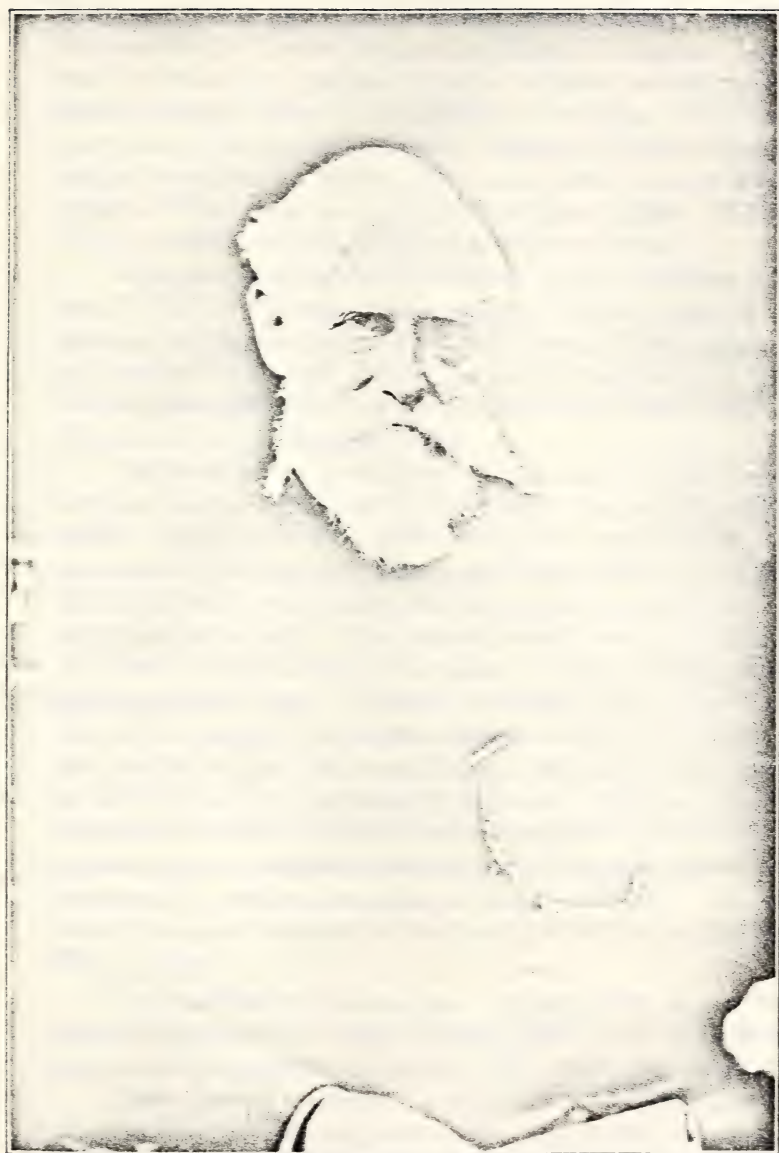
After six years of work in England he expired peaceably on the 13th day of Nov. 1744.

BOYHOOD REMINISCENCES OF MONTGOMERY SQUARE

By Rev. Robert Hamill Nassau, S.T.D.

My paternal grandfather, William Nassau, a merchant of Philadelphia, among his other properties, owned a farm at Montgomery Square. This is an historic property, where there have been buildings since the olden time. The house and farm are at the west corner of the crossing of two great roads. These are the turnpike coming from the north and running to Springhouse, and the state road from Doylestown to Norristown. The upper side of the state road is the summit of a gradual slope from the valley below. Here is a large stone farm house; and the barn some distance to the rear; and a stone spring house several hundred yards down the road. On the northeast side of the turnpike is the village store; and, to the southeast, across the state road is a cemetery and the Methodist church.

To briefly go back to early Colonial times, it may be said, that, in 1702, Penn's Commissioners of Property gave a patent for a large tract of land to a Welshman, named Alexander Edwards. In 1709, Alexander Edwards gave a deed for the same to Thomas Edwards who was the holder until 1719. Then Evan Price was the recipient. Two years later Evan Price sold to John Bartholomew. Another portion of the tract comprising 196 acres, was sold by the executor of Alexander Edwards to Richard Plegt. None of these holders were likely to have been settlers, except possible the Bartholomews. In 1745, John Bartholomew sold 25 acres hereabout to John Bartholomew, Jr., his son. The will of John Bartholomew was made in 1756. He had built a stone house here. In 1760, the stone house and 53 acres were sold to Edward Bartholomew. In 1778, in the midst of the Revolutionary period, Edward Bartholomew gave a deed to Dr. Charles Moore for 1100 pounds, conveying buildings and 104 acres. Dr. Charles Moore, the old-time physician,



REV. ROBERT HAMILL NASSAU, S. T. D.

lived until 1800; and Henry Hocker was his executor. Then, the property was sold to Enos Lewis, for 23 pounds. Another executor of Dr. Charles Moore was Micha M. Moore. Lewis was the owner for over twenty years. In 1822 he sold the 104 acres to James Carman, of Philadelphia, for \$7,314. Not many years later, Carman was deceased. In 1829, William Carman bought his estate for \$6,269. He was a tobacconist, of Philadelphia. That same year, my paternal grand-father, William Nassau, of Philadelphia, bought it, at the same price.

His eldest son, my father, the Rev. Charles William Nassau, D. D., as a young man, came, on Nov. 16, 1825, to the pastorate of the Norristown First Presbyterian church. Here he was married to Hannah Hamil, the second daughter of a Norristown merchant and ruling elder in that First church—Robert Hamil and his wife Isabella Todd.

The home of my grandfather Hamill stood on Main street between Swede and Cherry. In later years, the Second Presbyterian (Central church of Norristown), was erected nearly opposite to it. The property ran through from Main to Lafayette St. My father's health failing, he resigned his pastorate, Oct. 21, 1828; and in the fall of 1829, retired to the farm at the Square. In a letter written to him by his father in 1836, the latter, referring to the farm, says: "I bought it for you." He does not mention the full name of the tenant who ran the farm, but refers to him and his wife as "Jacob and Peggy." My father had nothing to do with the administration of the farm. The place was his home for his wife and children, and as his health improved in the country air, he conducted a private Boy's Boarding School, and occasionally preached in adjacent vacant churches. On this farm I was born, the sixth in the family, at 11 a. m. of Sunday, Oct. 11, 1835.

My grandfather Nassau was a ruling elder in the "old Pine St. church,"—the Third Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, under the ministry of the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D.

There came a speculator, a man named Muldron, who interested some of the clergymen of the city, in the purchase of lots in a proposed new town to be called Marion City, near Hannibal, Missouri. (I think that innocent ministers are especially

apt to be deceived by such smooth-tongued plans). The society and companionship of the place were to be made ideal, by inviting as emigrants from the east to that western Eden, only families of wealth and refinement. Dr. Ely invested, and he induced his elder, Mr. Nassau, to invest also. There was to be a college with a theological department attached to it, and, the wealthy Mr. Nassau was promised that his son should be elected Professor of Hebrew in that department. So, in the spring of 1836, I, a six-months old babe, was carried in my mother's arms, by canal and stage route—across Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh; thence down the Ohio, and up the Mississippi, to Marion City. Some of the emigrants, in searching for their lots, found them under the water of the river.

After my father had gone to Missouri, grand-father placed a Dr. Handy, his son-in-law, on the farm. I have in my possession, letters which he wrote to my father during 1836-1838. In one letter, he states, "Dr. Handy and Mary Ann do not like Montgomery Square for their residence. He does not like the manners and dispositions of the people in the neighborhood."

In another letter, he reveals his own temperance principles, saying, "I told Jacob, Thomas, and the others, whom I have employed to assist, that I would not, this season, give them any ale or porter, but I would give each of them $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents per day extra." (A penny was worth more, at that time, than it is today.) In another letter, he speaks of certain neighbors, "I have sown the corner lot adjoining Wager's with buckwheat. . . . Van Horn and Mrs. Snyder have got married. I am sorry to inform you that the Rev. Mr. Koontz died a few days ago." And he mentions another proprietor, "George Weaver." Most of the neighbors were Baptists.

He thought of selling the place, and wrote that, if he did so, he would ask \$12,000 dollars for it. He mentions that a Mr. Thompson "has sold his for \$14,500. . . . good farms were selling from \$80, to \$100, per acre." Later, he writes that "Thomas has done very well," but, he speaks of "Jacob and Peggy," in severe terms.

The proposed theological department at Marion City never materialized. So, my father, for two years, was Pro-

fessor of Latin and Greek in the College. Then, something happened, Muldron disappeared; the funds disappeared with him; and the College collapsed. (I have been told that the buildings afterwards became a Masonic Institution.) So, in June 1838, my father, with his seven children, returned to Montgomery Square, where, as grandfather wrote, at that time—entirely new neighbors were living, and he suggested to my father the possibility of organizing a Presbyterian church.

I pause to say that on the return steamboat journey up the Ohio, to mention a psychological fact. Many persons have doubted that memory can go back to the age of two years and eight months. I am positive that I *do* remember, just like a vista-view out of a window; nothing to the right or to the left, but a distinct vision in those narrow limits. On the upper deck of the vessel, I was playing with my brothers and sisters, and happy in the possession of a new pretty velvet cap. A gust of wind carried my precious cap away into the river, and my little heart was desolated over the loss of my treasure. To a child, it meant so much.

The Square was, as it still is,—only a cross-roads village. On one corner, at that time, was a country inn and store; on another a blacksmith shop; our brick dwelling house was on the diagonal corner; and, the fourth was an open field—but is now a grave-yard. Some seven years ago, I visited the place,—riding in a carriage, from the William Penn Inn at Gwynedd—the two or three miles to the Square. I recognized the cool spring house on the edge of the meadow at the side of the road—(the same side as the dwelling house.) The latter looked in bad repair. I was allowed to go through it, and recognized the old rooms. They looked very small.

Among my childhood memories of the farm, was a path across the meadow down to the springhouse, escorted by one of the servants as she would be going there for milk or cream. I liked to go, for the sake of the drink of clear cold water. I looked with dread at the oxen feeding in the meadow, especially if any happened to advance toward us—doubtless, their advance was not intended as offensive; probably, they were seek-

ing some favor, however—I feared their big eyes and uplifted horns.

My most distinct memory, in my fourth year, is of a broken leg:—The farmer, after going with produce to market, (I do not know whither) on his return as he entered the lane, would stop to report to my father, before driving on up to the barn. On such occasions, the children were always keen to jump into the wagon and have a ride. One day, I do not know the exact date; certainly I was not four years old, we all ran out into the lane and began to clamber into the wagon, father was on the seat of the open vehicle, sitting in front by the driver. The elder children had succeeded in scrambling in; but my little feet had failed; my father turned and forbade me. He never was severe, but, he was strict. We never asked, “Why?” at any of his prohibitions or restrictions, doubtless, he had a good reason. But, I was unable to look on the joy of the others, and submit to the deprivation. I took advantage of his back; and, with the connivance of my brothers, climbed in and sat among them. Presently, when my father happened to observe me he said nothing and I thought no more of the prohibition. The barn, like so many barns—stood on a gentle slope. The front, on the ground floor, had stalls for cattle. At the rear, an artificial earthen incline had been built up to the main floor. That incline was only a narrow drive-way for wagon loads of hay to reach that floor. On the sides of the declivity, at irregular spaces, were large stones, as a rough preventive wall, against any horse or vehicle going over a side. The rear entrance was through two very large, tall, wide, heavy folding-doors. They were open that day. The wagon drove up the ascent, and on to the barn floor, there we all alighted and romped while father held some conversation with the farmer, then, he turned to go, and called to us to follow; as the youngest, naturally I was the last. The others were already down the slope, with father, awaiting me. The season was in the Spring; and a strong March-like wind was blowing. That wind lifted one of the big doors from its hinges, the children screamed to me; I saw the heavy boards falling towards me; I toddled to one side of the declivity, and unable to go farther,—fell between

two of those big stones; they saved my body,—but, the big door, as it crashed over me,—broke one of my legs below the knee. I have no memory of the pain. Whether it was my own conscience, or a suggestion by some one else, I only remember that I felt that God had punished me for my disobedience. My father had not rebuked me. He gently lifted me, and carried me in his arms to the house. I remember the room, and the side of the bed on which I was laid, until the doctor should come. I remember his name. He was Dr. Foulke, whose descendants are living in that region to-day. Broken limbs, in childhood, easily and perfectly unite. I can discover no inequality in my legs, but, I am positive that the left was the broken one, for, I remember that the Doctor, in coming, stood at the right side of the bed, and reached across my right leg to handle my left. I am sure that the season was in the latter part of spring; for my eldest sister, to amuse me when I was recovering, made little cups and saucers of very small fallen fruit no larger than marbles. During my sickness, a lady called to see my mother, and was brought by her to look on me. She was Miss Latta, from the Great Valley church, Chester county. (Twenty-three years later I was married to her niece.)

I was confined to bed for four weeks. When I was allowed to rise, I was afraid to walk; but, I soon gained confidence in my unused limb. My mother retained for many years as souvenirs, the splints with which Dr. Foulke had held together the fractured bones.

At the Square, I, for the first time—looked on the face of death. I do not remember the date, probably, I was in my fifth year. A young uncle, a younger brother of my father, from Philadelphia, was a frequent visitor at the farm, and a play-mate of my oldest brother. One summer, this young uncle died on one of his visits. I was taken up stairs to the room where, in the coffin resting on two chairs, the corpse lay surrounded by ice. I was lifted up, that I might look upon the face of the dead; and then, when the hearse and line of carriages came, and the older members of the family started on the twenty-mile ride to the burial in a Philadelphia cemetery—I felt very lonely, as, leaning over the yard gate, I watched them drive away.

There are other distinct remembrances; of the big peach tree in the front yard; of the tall pear tree near the lane; of the great bushes of box-wood on the lawn at the rear of the house; of the old dog that died; and of the butchering of hogs. I do not remember about school or church. Then, in April 1841, when I was in my sixth year, my father was called to the Professorship of Latin and Greek in Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. The neighbors came to bid good-bye to the family. Among them all, I remember the name of but one. All my life I have been an admirer of female beauty. I began the habit in childhood. I remember that young lady. As I sat on a little stool at the side of my older sister, they two were chatting interestedly,—and I was looking up silently at the lady's face, as at a pretty picture. There were other neighbors; perhaps some were short; others, tall; perhaps some were thin, others, stout; perhaps some were ugly. I do not know; for, I remember only the pretty Miss Steinmetz. No knowledge of her, before or afterwards; only of that good-bye day. And, then, in a big stage coach, parents and eight children, we rode the long day's ride to Easton.

The record of the proprietorships of the farm at the Square, subsequent to the departure of the Nassau family to Easton, is:—In 1840, my grand-father gave a deed to Emeline Warrington, for \$8,400; who, in that same year,—gave it back to him. In 1841, he sold to Charles Woodward. It seems that, later, in 1853, Thomas Rogers came to hold it in trust. He received a deed for it in 1869. In 1870, he gave deed to Garnet Cotter, of Philadelphia, for \$9,250; and he was the owner for many years. In 1900, the sheriff, John R. Light, seized it as the property of Cotter, selling it to Joseph Y. Jeannet. Finally, in 1902, Henry Genther, the present owner, bought it from Jeannet, paying certain debts and \$12,500 for buildings and 51 acres. In the period when my grand-father had the farm, there were 104 acres attached to it.




DR. J. K. WEAVER, Surgeon General, G. A. R.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

By Dr. J. K. Weaver

ORIGIN



The Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 1865, by a physician,—Dr. B. F. Stephenson, of Springfield, Illinois, who served as a surgeon in the 14th Illinois Infantry Regiment, in the Civil War. After the War, he returned to his practice in Springfield, and in February 1866 suggested the idea of the organization of the G. A. R., and made the draft a ritual. The profession of medicine takes some pride in the fact that this soldier was a physician. It is interesting also to note that the supervising of the printing of this ritual was by a soldier in the office of the paper called The Tribune, at Decatur, and that the compositors in the office were also those who served their country as Union soldiers.

The first post of the G. A. R. was organized at Decatur, Ill., and the second post followed soon at Springfield, then many others were rapidly formed throughout the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio and Missouri. In July of the same year these posts with others convened at Springfield, Illinois, and formed a department of the G. A. R. at which General John M. Palmer, a distinguished soldier, was elected commander. At this convention, Major and Doctor B. F. Stephenson was recognized as the head and front of the organization and highly commended for his energy, loyalty and perseverance in promoting it. I mention these facts particularly, in order that no further doubt may be had as to the *origin* of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In October of the same year a call was issued for a National Convention, it was held in Indianapolis in November and it was made up of delegates, or representatives—from the States of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsyl-

vania, Ohio, Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana and the District of Columbia. At this convention, General John M. Palmer, of Illinois, previously mentioned—presided. Another distinguished soldier, General Stephen S. A. Hurlbut, was elected commander-in-chief and Doctor Stephenson, Adjutant General.

The Second Annual Encampment, or convention, was held in the Council Chambers of Independence Hall, Philadelphia, January 15th, 1868, when General John A. Logan, of distinguished fame—was elected commander-in-chief, and another prominent soldier, N. P. Chipman, was chosen as adjutant general. At this convention,—rules and regulations were adopted, and the organization more thoroughly perfected. A little later in the same year a committee was appointed, called the National Council of Administration that met in New York City, which revised the rules, regulations and ritual, and recommended a uniform which should be worn by comrades, all officials and members, on all public occasions,—a rule that still continues.

Annual sessions of the National Encampment have been held regularly, and prominent comrades of the department have been successively elected from that time until the present. Among that number being General John A. Logan, who held the position for three years; General Burnside for two years; General Chas. Stephens for two years; our own Major-General John F. Hartranft, whose wife, daughters and son still survive among us,—two terms; General Louis Wagner of Philadelphia, recently deceased; Robert B. Beath, of Philadelphia, who still lives, and was one of the organizers, and one of the most active in the past and who still participates in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, and General Thomas J. Stewart, present Adjutant General of the State of Pennsylvania,—who, at the age of sixteen,—found a place in the ranks of the army (after having previously made several unsuccessful attempts to enter) is very active in the affairs of the Order at the present time. Other distinguished men might be mentioned who have successfully held this position but time and space forbids their mention. The present Commander-in-Chief, is Washington Gardner, of Albion, Michigan.

OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE G. A. R.

The object of the Association as many of you may know is :

1st—To preserve and strengthen that fraternal feeling which bind together the soldiers, sailors and marines, who united to suppress the late Rebellion and to perpetuate the memory and history of their dead comrades.

2ndly—To assist such comrades in the army as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who follow.

3rdly—To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a permanent respect for, and fidelity to its constitution and laws. Discontinuance of whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason and rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights and justice to all men.

ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP

All soldiers and sailors of United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, who served between April 12th, 1861 and April 9, 1865, in the Civil War, and who have been honorably discharged therefrom after such service; and all those who were called into active service and who served, at least, for ninety days and were subject to the orders of the United States general officers between dates mentioned,—are eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. It was afterwards decided, by the President, in a proclamation—that the Rebellion really ended the 20th of August, 1866; it began April 19th, 1861, so that eligibility to membership includes also, these later dates. Service in a State regiment and mustered out on a State discharge—although they may have been present on the field—does not entitle to membership in the organization.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The several constituted bodies of the Association are the posts, departments, and national encampments; in which organi-



zations, all of the work of the Grand Army is carried on. First, the individual post. Second, several posts, not less than six, constitute a department, and all the departments combining constitutes the national encampment.

The rules of the order require that no posts shall be named after a *living* person, so that all posts have adopted the name of a deceased soldier, or of some person eminent during the war for loyalty, and efficiency; and that no two posts shall hold the same name. While eligibility to membership is limited to those only who served in the army, navy or marine corps, or, as it is now called, public health service; and who hold an honorable discharge from the same, may become a member of any individual post, but it is required that the applicant shall show beyond a question of doubt, the date and cause of his discharge from the service; the company, regiment, or the ship to which he was attached; the length of time he served, thus to prove his worthiness and right to be a member of the Post.

The number of posts in United States from the latest records is 5667. The number of departments are 47; and the total membership amounting to about 180,000. This information is derived from a summary of the membership of each post in each county of the State; the same being reported to the department head quarters and they in turn, communicate the same to National Headquarters. There as in Montgomery County eight posts distributed through the County. Norristown has one; Pottstown two; Lansdale, one; Hatboro, one; Bryn Mawr, one; Conshohocken, one. Zook Post No. 11, located at Norristown, is the largest numerically, and the most prominent in the county, and bears good repute in the department,—having upon its rolls, some of the most distinguished officers of the civil war; some of whom are still living. The Post takes the name of Zook, from a native son of Montgomery County, who was of splendid military ancestry; who went early to the field; attained to the rank of Brigadier General, and who gave up his life on the bloody field at Gettysburg, on the afternoon of the second day of battle—2d day of July, 1863, while personally leading his men in the thick of the fight.

ZOOK POST OF NORRISTOWN

It is not inappropriate in this place that mention be made of the returned soldiers, those who were instrumental in the organization and maintenance of Zook Post. The Post was first mustered in on December 12, 1866, by a comrade from post No. 2, Philadelphia, upon which occasion only two members were initiated, James Dykes and George N. Corson,—names well known and highly respected in the borough. Two days later, at the home of Jonathan Swallow, Main and Green streets,—there were enrolled—General Wm. J. Bolton, Joseph K. Bolton, Wm. Allebaugh, Doctor Louis W. Reed, Samuel T. Pretty, James B. Heebner, Thomas Simpson and at a short time later Richard T. Stuart, Thomas J. Owen, Joseph M. Cuffle, Samuel M. Markley, Freeman S. Davis, and Henry S. Smith. These men constituted the charter members of the post. The charter being dated December 1, 1866. Many of these are household names of those who bore an honorable record as soldiers in the Union Army.

Zook Post was the first to organize in Montgomery County and in all probability it will be the last to surrender its charter—owing to its numerical strength, and having a small security fund upon which the Post could depend for its future support. It might be worth while to mention here that Zook Post has upon its rolls many prominent men in military as well as in civil life. Many of whom have passed on and some of whom still living retain their membership.

First among those may be mentioned General John F. Hartranft, distinguished in war; prominent in affairs of state; a former governor whose memory is duly esteemed and honored. Dr. L. W. Reed was a prominent citizen and an esteemed practitioner of medicine during his entire life in this borough; and who entered the service early in the war and remained until its close, taking a leading part in the line of duty, attaining to a high rank; and holding the position of Surgeon-General of the State of Pennsylvania under several governors. General Wm. J. Bolton was also among the first citizens of Norristown to go into service. He served his country well and faithfully, and re-

turned to his home at the close of the war to enjoy the honors and respect of the community. Lieutenant-Colonel Theodore W. Bean, was among the first to be commissioned. He was Captain of Company K, 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry, who served with distinction through the war and returned home with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; attained prominence as a lawyer; was active in the affairs of Zook Post and is carried on its rolls among its deceased but distinguished members. His wife, daughter and son who remain among us are held in high regard, are members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County and are actively engaged in promoting its best and highest interests.

There is another family whose name is not mentioned as often as it should be; whose every son, five in number entered early in the service and served throughout the war. Two of them attaining prominent positions, one being killed in service, others returning to their homes and pursuing honorable, activities among their comrades and friends. I refer to the Schall family. Also Dr. Elwood M. Corson, of Norristown, and Joseph Corson, of Plymouth Meeting, both of whom have died within the last year. Time forbids the mention of others more or less prominent, but, now deceased.

Of those living are General Thomas J. Stewart, Harrisburg, Pa.; General John W. Schall of Norristown; Commander Frederick I. Naile, United States Navy, retired, Norristown, Pa.; Henry K. Weand, one of the judges, occupying the bench of the county, who are not members of Zook Post, but of other practitioner; Captain Henry Jacobs, of Norristown; Samuel E. Nyce, now of Florida, and other members of the Post whose names might be appropriately mentioned. Those prominent in the county, who are not members of Zook Post, but of other posts who may be mentioned, is General John R. Brooke, still living in retirement in Philadelphia, who commanded the 53rd Regiment, P. V. I.

It should not be forgotten that among the many distinguished and heroic men who went out from this County there is one who is considered to be the most distinguished and heroic of all. He was born in this county; reared in this borough, and

went early to West Point for a military training and became a Major General and was universally known as "Hancock the Superb,"—Winfield Scott Hancock, a former candidate for the Presidency of the United States. It is gratifying to know that his remains lie in our own Montgomery Cemetery and to the Historical Society of Montgomery County has been accorded the privilege and the honor of caring for his mausoleum for the future. Among the prominent men of the County who were allied with the G. A. R. and served in the Civil War are former Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker. General Wm. E. Mintzer, of Pottstown; and John N. Jacobs, present Controller of the County—who served first as Lieutenant, and afterwards as Surgeon—throughout the war, who is living at Lansdale. These are honorable and distinguished men whom the County may with honor, claim.

It may also be noted as relating to the membership of Zook Post which cannot be said of any other post in the Grand Army of the United States—That two of its members, former Governor, Gen. John F. Hartranft and General Thomas J. Stewart, have held the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. Two of its members—General Stewart and General John W. Schall, have filled the position of Adjutants-General of the Grand Army of the Republic; two of its members,—Dr. L. W. Reed and the reader of this paper, have served—and one is now holding the position of Surgeon General of the Grand Army of the Republic; two of its members were Department Commanders—Thomas J. Stewart and Wm. J. Wells, and the latter was for years General Inspector on the General's staff. Another, Captain Fetterolf, of Collegeville, Pa., still living and in good health,—while not a member of the Post is usually present on all public occasions and participates in its exercises.

Zook Post at present occupies, and has since 1881, had the comfortable quarters on the second floor of the Grand Opera House, where they maintained a reading room, a library and a large room devoted to post business purposes, which contains many valuable war relics, and upon whose walls hang the pictures of its distinguished deceased comrades. The Post also

has a contributing membership of prominent citizens of the Borough who, upon occasions which include the public have honored the Post by their presence; not only contributing to the maintenance of the post but giving encouragement to its membership. The meetings of the post are held weekly and include in the program of exercises, reports from various departments in which the Post is divided. Adjutant's reports; quartermaster's report; reading of orders; reports of committees; "muster in" or addition of any members. The officers are,—Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, Jr. Vice-Commander, Adjutant, Surgeon, Chaplain, Quartermaster, Officer of the day, Officer of the Guard, Quartermaster Sergeant and Guard. All of the meetings are private and no soldier is granted entrance except those who have the countersign to which every Grand Army man in good standing is entitled. Upon occasions, the post meetings are open to the public on such occasions as Lincoln's birthday; Washington's birthday; Memorial day, Flag day and special occasions. Post members are at present about one hundred in number. Death claiming from eight to twelve every year and the time is not far distant when this post with all others will cease to exist and its existence will only be a memory.

A history of Zook Post has been prepared by Comrade Wm. J. Wells, present department commander, which gives the particulars of the organization and much interesting information in pamphlet form, a copy of which I have and will be glad to present to the Society, together with other reports bearing upon the present condition of the Grand Army of the Republic in the various States of the Union, that will be interesting reading to those who may care enough to consult them in the future.

Besides the 4th, 51st and 138th regiments which stand out prominently, as representing Montgomery County—there were other regiments which were partially recruited in Montgomery county. The 68th regiment which had one company—Company K—on whose rolls were found some recruits from Montgomery County. The 93rd regiment in which Samuel McCarter of Company A, was carried as Captain and Marshall McCarter and Wm. A. Ruddach were carried as Captain and 1st Lieu-

tenant respectively; together with others from this County, all of whom were highly respected citizens and successful business men of the Borough of Norristown. The 95th regiment has the names of officers and privates upon its rolls, although mainly recruited outside of the County. The 106th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, has one of its companies recruited from Montgomery County, Company C, whose Captain was J. I. Brightenbaugh and in whose ranks were many others from this County. M. R. McClellan was Captain of Company A, of the 138th regiment—and afterwards became Lieutenant-Colonel, and finally Colonel of the regiment, and who bore an honorable service record. The 160th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, afterwards known as the 15th, or, Anderson's Cavalry, of "three year's service," on whose rolls is carried the name of Henry K. Weand, as Captain of Company H, together with many other honorable names which space does not permit to be mentioned. The 162nd regiment, afterwards the 17th Cavalry in which Company L, is noted, has David Hartranft upon its rolls and there are many others from this County; notably that of Captain Theodore W. Bean, afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Bean.

There were other commands accredited to this County which served in the civil war for shorter periods of time and on its rolls are found names of many from Montgomery County. Some of them being "nine-months men" and some "one-hundred-day militia." Just how many men in the various organizations and parts of organizations are accredited to Montgomery County, the records do not show. But all of the organizations accredited, either in part, or in full, including an independent cavalry battalion, commanded by Frederick W. Haws—were twenty-seven. Comparatively few, however, became members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

While, as mentioned before,—the various posts are careful in the observance of all patriotic days,—Memorial day is the one day which is observed with the most devoted ceremonies, and on which occasion—school children, citizens, patriotic organizations, Sons-of-Veterans and local military organizations are invited to participate; and the post, in full uniform, bearing the post flags, the American flag, and when possible, their own

regimental flags, are preceded by an escort of citizens—if possible, and marching with measured tread, to various places where their dead comrades lie and pay tribute to their memory. There they plant the modest flower and honor their memories in song and speech; fire a salute over their graves, and close their exercises with the “tattoo” from the bugle. Flag day is another day which has recently been introduced and whose special observance is growing much more interesting every year as a holiday; it is especially observed by schools and by patriotic citizens in general.

This is but a brief, and very imperfect resume of the Grand Army of the Republic as it relates to Montgomery County; but perhaps it may be sufficient to attract attention to the brave men,—who, in time of necessity—responded to their country’s call and helped, with the assistance of nearly two million of patriotic sons of the whole country, to put down (as it is called)—the rebellion of the South against the North, they thus preserved the Union indivisible and free.

Closely allied to the Grand Army of the Republic, and participating in the war, and who as members of the Christian Commission—are the names of some women of this County who I think—have not received the attention which their patriotic services demand. Among such from this county are those of Mrs. Rachael P. Evans, of Bridgeport; Mrs. Wm. H. Holstein, Mrs. Allie Carver and Miss Sallie L. Roberts, of Upper Merion; Miss Sarah Priest, of Bridgeport, and Miss Eliza J. Brower, of Norristown. These are the only names that I find recorded as participating by giving their services to the sick and wounded in hospitals, and when stricken with disease. Among those mentioned above and especially to be noted—is Mrs. Holstein, who with her husband, Wm. H. Holstein, remained throughout the war; following the Army of the Potomac in its campaign in Virginia, at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Petersburg, and at Gettysburg, Penna. The services which these noble women rendered, and the sacrifices which they made—can never be forgotten by the veterans of the war—for it was not only the services they rendered to the physical needs

of the wounded and in providing for the necessities of the sick—but it was equally those services which brought good cheer, comfort and consolation. They received the messages of the dying and sent them to the loved ones at home; these deeds cheered the hearts and relieved the minds of “the boys” who were far from home and separated from those they loved. It is encouraging to know that a movement is now on foot initiated by the Grand Army of the Republic, looking to the erection of a monument which will adequately recognize and express the loyal services rendered and devoted by these self sacrificing women and transmit its tribute to future generations, the record of their valor and sacrifices.

SOLDIERS MONUMENT IN THE SQUARE

In connection with such honors to these, the devoted women there should be noted that body of loyal and patriotic women designated as “The Ladies Monument Association,” of this County, who first proposed the erection of the monument in the public square in Norristown, who, for two years—labored for the accomplishment of this most worthy purpose. Who those women were, I have not been able to discover; but their names should be secured and the story of their work should be made a matter of record. The raising of the money for the erection of this monument—which stands as a silent monitor in the square, and upon whose sides are recorded the names, companies, and regiments in which our soldiers served, was secured by their efforts and of the Zook Post of our borough which had the great honor of having charge of the ceremonies incident to its unveiling.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

One of the most natural and legitimate supporters of the Grand Army of the Republic—is the organization known as the Sons-of-Veterans. Their purpose is to keep alive the memories of the dead; their suffering and sacrifices and to decorate the graves of their fathers on the annual recurrence of Memorial Day; and in teaching the lessons of patriotism to the young whose loyalty shall tend to build up a nation of strong pat-

riotic citizens. Their organization is very complete and rapidly increasing in numbers. They have at present about 50,000 members. Their organization is divided into "camps" they are located at various points throughout the State and County and, so far as it is possible they are assembled in companies; provided with uniform, arms and equipment, by the state upon declaring their purpose if occasion should require—to respond to any call the Country may make upon them, and to protect and defend the Nation for which their fathers died.

THE DAUGHTERS-OF-VETERANS

There is still another organization closely allied to that of the Sons-of-Veterans, known by the title of "Daughters-of-Veterans," it is the youngest of all the organizations affiliated with the G. A. R. and whose object and purpose is practically the same as that of the Sons-of-Veterans. Their organization is complete in all details, and they have all of the comliness, enthusiasm, patriotism and ambition of youth. They have an intense patriotism, and exhibit it on every proper occasion by seeking every opportunity to teach its lesson to others. They are charitable in their sympathies; loyal to the Country of their birth, and to their fathers; and though small in numbers, they are growing rapidly in strength; and their influence for good cannot be estimated in the declining years of their fathers. The Grand Army gives them its earnest support and co-operation and sympathies deeply with its every purpose.

THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

The Women's Relief Corps is another auxiliary. It is closely allied to the Grand Army of the Republic and a potent influence in everything that pertains to its advancement. The object of this Corps—as stated by themselves—is to assist such Union veterans as may need their help and protection; to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans; to find them homes and employment; and to assure them of sympathy and friends. Further—their work is to enshrine and emulate the deeds of the army nurses, and of all loyal women who rendered loving

service to their country in her hour of peril. In addition, they claim to maintain true allegiance to the United States of America; to inculcate lessons of patriotism and love-of-country among their children—and, in the communities in which they live—to encourage the spread of universal liberty and equal rights to all. No corps in this organization is formed except as an auxiliary to a post of the Grand Army of the Republic—and with the approval of that post. All women of good moral character who have attained the age of sixteen—are eligible to membership. This body of women is very much like that of the Grand Army. There are thirty-seven different corps widely distributed and number in strength over 10,000 members. The corps of women is made up generally of the most progressive, patriotic and influential women of the country. They meet in annual session coincident with and at the same place as the Grand Army—with whom they fraternize in committee work, exchange felicitations and give to the G. A. R. encouragement in every possible way. They also contribute yearly large sums of money to the dependants of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE LADIES OF G. A. R.

This organization stands, also—very close to the Grand Army of the Republic because its members are all of kin by blood or affinity to the veterans; and for the further reason, as they claim—that the largest part of its mission is to help the poor and needy comrades, and the orphans and widows in their hour of need and suffering. Also—for the magnificent work they have done and are still doing in teaching the lessons of loyalty throughout the length and breadth of the land. They are to be congratulated upon the energy, ability and devotion with which their work is carried on in their chosen field. They have lately prepared a history of the flag,—its author being their National Patriotic Instructor, Mrs. Wm. Clarke Cary. It gives an instructive history of the flag, and claims, as one of its special objects—to teach the young in public schools and in church—that for which the flag stands; and faithful co-operation to the interests of the Grand Army, and loyalty and devotion to the maintenance of the principles for which it contended in the field.

The Grand Army—while rapidly going down the decline, and is spoken of as the fast vanishing army,—can still take with them that assurance that the service of its members will never be forgotten nor their memories be ever effaced.

HOMES AND SCHOOLS FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The State and Nation have been quite active and generous in the provision which they have made for the care of the feeble and aged members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The only state home now remaining is located at Erie, Pa., in which there are several hundred aged veterans who have a place to repose and where all of the physical comforts and social pleasures that are possible are given them. This home is maintained by the State, but officered and administered by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition to this home, there are soldier's orphans schools that have been in existence for fifty years,—offering a home for all dependants and giving them such mental, moral and physical training that will bring forth its fruit in due season, and that will make them a blessing and an honor to the Commonwealth. There were originally four schools, the one located at Chester Springs, near Phoenixville, was united with the one at Scotland, near Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pa. This school is an industrial school and admits to its care the orphan children of honorable discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, who were members of the Pennsylvania commands. Here they are under training until they have completed their course. The graduates of the school (which number 20,000 or more) include young men and women, who have received a thorough practical education and are now performing their part in the world's work, often attaining to high and important positions in this and other States, and working as experts, machinists, draughtsmen, telegraphers, stenographers and typewriters. Some of them have become judges of courts; ministers of the gospel; and others hold positions of trust and honor in the great social, commercial and financial enterprises of the state and country.

The general government has also provided National Homes for disabled volunteer soldiers; there are ten in number, located in different states from Maine to California, and provided for by national legislation, but officered and administered by members of the Grand Army of the Republic. These homes afford all the comfort that is possible to be given to their guests while deprived of the blessings and comforts which many formerly had in the surroundings of their own homes; here every opportunity is afforded them in their declining years for intellectual, social and personal comforts, that their last days may be as happy as it is possible to make them.

This summary of what constitutes the activities of the Grand Army of the Republic, its purpose, provisions and its accomplishments, forms a chapter of great interest to the present and coming generations, and the provisions for it which have been made by the general government; by the state and by the organizations of men and women for the care of the old soldiers who were growing fewer in number and less able to care for themselves; in a few years this organization will become extinct, but their memories will be cherished, and the services which they rendered to their country in time of direst need will remain a permanent record.

MEN WOMEN AND EVENTS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP

By Clara A. Beek

The first page in the history of Whitpain township, was written in England. It antedates that of our county seat by just 101 years. It carries the signature of Richard Whitpain, "A butcher, and citizen of the town of London."

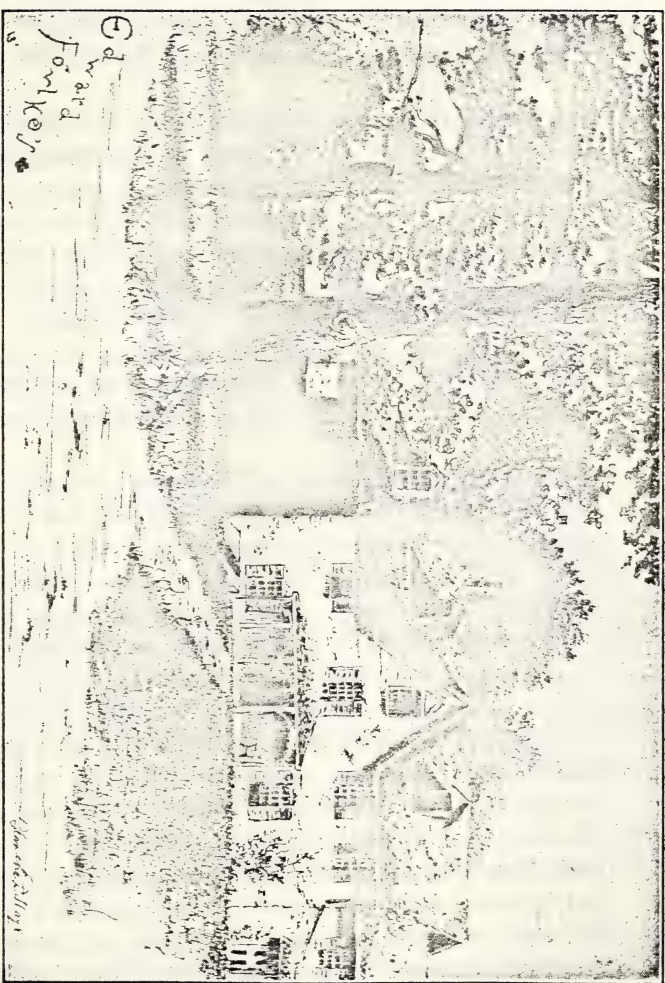
In spite of his very prosaic way of earning a living, he was gifted with imagination, making him ambitious to take a hand in helping to shape the destiny of "Penn's Holy Experiment in the Free Colony for all Men." Accordingly to quote the phraseology of the legal records:—"In 1683 he became seized in fee of 4500 acres in Philadelphia County, Province of Penn." In order to distinguish this tract from other purchases he had made, it was named, "Whitpain's Plantation."

Not only was his name ("which has no duplicate in the United States") given to what is now known as Whitpain township, but on Holmes' Map of Surveys (begun in 1681) the Wissahickon, which crosses the eastern angle of the township, was named "Whitpain's Creek."

Shortly after making this purchase, his son, Zacharias Whitpain, who was a mariner, came to America, took charge of the "Plantation", and gathered a number of tenants about him, as was the custom of large land holders in that day. Among those who came with him was Ann Whitpain, presumably his sister, who afterward married Thomas McCarty. They had been here less than five years, when, their father, Richard Whitpain—died, leaving his estate, seriously involved, and his widow disposed of the whole tract to his creditors.

Later his heirs, being dissatisfied with the sale, entered into legal proceedings, with the result that they regained a part interest in the tract.

It is a strange circumstance, that although permitted to perpetuate their name in the "New World", through this purchase, their opportunity as active participants in the making of



EDWARD FORTLIKE HOME, PENNSYLVANIA,
where Sally Wister lived during the Revolutionary War

its history, was of comparatively brief duration. The only recorded distinction conferred on Zacherias Whitpain, was his appointment by the Governor's Council, as one of the committee of three, to investigate a certain Indian disturbance near Whitmarsh. He died in 1693, eight years after coming here, and his son, a mere lad, followed him to the grave a few years later.

Close "by the side of the road," on the old William Funk farm (recently purchased by Jesse Cassel) between Blue Bell and Broad Axe, along the westerly side of the Skippack Road, is a lonely grave which for 200 years has attracted the attention, and aroused the curiosity of those passing by; the stone which marks it bears mute witness to the fact that it is the last resting place of "Ann Whitpain, wife of Thomas McCarty" and that she died in 1714, aged 57. Tradition says that at one time 50 or more graves surrounded that of Ann (Whitpain) McCarty, and another tradition tells how the stones marking them disappeared.

Among the early owners of this farm was George Bisbing. The house on it had been built in 1704, and was of rather an elegant type for that day, having panelled doors as well as double doors—all of solid oak. In 1776 Bisbing built an addition to this house and in this addition he built a great, large, hospitable looking fire place with an oven back of it; as it was necessary that this oven should have flat stones he just went to the private burial place on the farm lifted the stones, (for some reason sparing that of Ann McCarty) and used them for this purpose; tradition further states that it was his custom to spend many hours sitting in this capacious fire place, and that although he could not look in any direction without seeing vast tracts of virgin timber, he became so obsessed with the idea that there might arise a shortage, that he refused to burn anything but corn stalks; and it is further claimed that after his death his "ghost" came back and haunted the fireplace,—probably with the purpose of "keeping tab" on that timber—so we think these facts quite establish the right of Whitpain township to claim as its own, the founder of "The Society for the Conservation of our National Forests."

WHITPAIN'S DEVELOPMENT

For a period of about 50 years, dating from 1710 to 1762, was what might for want of a better name be called a quiescent period in the history of Whitpain; at this time English, Welsh, French and German settlers were taking up small plantations and gradually getting them under cultivation and when finally they succeeded in raising more produce than was absolutely essential for their own use, there was no way of marketing the surplus, excepting on horseback, along bridle paths through the forests.

Accordingly, in 1712 the farmers through this and the upper districts sent a petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia begging that "A Road or cart-way be laid out from Skippack to the Widemarsh", (Whitemarsh).

The petition was granted and in 1713 a road surveyed and given the name "Skippack Road"; it extended a distance of four miles in a straight line through the township, with the township line at Belfry, its terminus in the north, and Broad Axe in the south; it is one of the three oldest roads in the State, and noted in Revolutionary history because on Oct. 3rd, 1777, Washington marched his army of 10,000 men over it to the Battle of Germantown; along its entire course are mile stones, giving the various distances to Philadelphia, and tradition says there is a story connected with the one at Centre Square, to the effect that when the artist (?) cut the stone, with his crude implements, in cutting the number "18", the first numeral was so badly mutilated, that it could not be distinguished, so he placed it on the other side of the figure "8", making it read "81 miles" to Philadelphia. This must have puzzled and dismayed many a weary traveler to "The City of Brotherly Love."

VILLAGES IN WHITPAIN

There are seven villages in Whitpain, all centering about cross roads, and to all seeming none will ever attain the dignity of towns. Three of them, however, claim a right to the dignity of a place in Colonial History, and these three face the famous

Skippack Road. Beginning at the extreme southern end of the township is

BROAD AXE

Here we find a hotel built in 1792 (still standing), a store, an old forge, and perhaps a dozen houses. The story goes that in the early history of this hamlet, an old woman, by the name of Mrs. Hatchet, kept a beer and candy store on the east corner of the cross roads. No license was required in those days, and it was quite a common thing for a woman to keep up this business. At any rate here is a repetition of "the old, old story", i. e.: Eve had the apple, and Adam wanted it. Seeing Mrs. Hatchet's enterprise in satisfying the appetite of the public for intoxicating drinks, along came a man, and opened a public house directly opposite, and in his effort to eclipse Mrs. Hatchet hung out the sign of the Broad Axe.

Owing to competition, or for some other cause, Mrs. Hatchet's inspiration in "a flight of fancy," hung out the sign of "A Spread Eagle." Unfortunately the material used in the construction of this sign was so defective that "The wind and the weather" played havoc with it, and split the Eagle through the center, so that thereafter the place came to be known as "The Split Crow." This place was later turned into a store.

In years gone by Broad Axe boasted a famous speedway. This extended from "A White Oak tree", at the corner of the old pike, along the road leading over Sandy Hill to Norristown, and ended at the lane leading to Wertsner's mill. It is a nearly level stretch and once a year it was cleared of stone and other obstacles and there would be a great test of horse flesh over this course, while the fences on either side were lined with interested spectators. At the conclusion of the races, the old tavern became the scene of gay revelry. These races were abandoned in 1840.

Just above the village, near the creek—stood an oil mill which was abandoned in 1828; here it was that the British, who pursued the Americans after the Battle of Germantown, were repulsed and driven back; this stream was not bridged until

1805 and the contractor who put up the bridge received \$1054.15 for the work.

In 1841 there was organized in this cross-road village, an association called "The Washington Benevolent Society"; it was in active existence just 40 years, and during that period justified its claim to benevolence—having paid out for "relief" \$36,628.42, and for "funerals" \$6565.00, making a total expenditure of \$42,833.42.

BLUE BELL

Once known as "Pigeon Town"—is supposed to have been given this name because of an old resident, Morgan Morgan, a great trapper of pigeons, who was as well, a famous gunsmith.

In 1840 a post office (with Benj. Hillan, ex-member of the Legislature, as Post Master),—was opened here, and the name of the place was changed.

Blue Bell, as well as Broad Axe, had its rival hostleries. One was called "The White Horse", the other "The Black Horse." Both of these houses are standing and the tavern on the west side of the road is now the home of Abram Velentine; it was licensed as a Public House as early as 1796, and kept open till 1826. In this house the dreadful Rader tragedy occurred on June 2, 1877.

It is almost impossible to think of Blue Bell, without thinking of The Rev. John Philip Boehm.

He was without question one of the strongest characters in the early history of the township. This is borne out by the fact, that, after a lapse of more than two hundred years, the children's children of the church which he founded and under whose altar he was laid to rest,—hold his memory in the greatest reverence. He came to this country about 1720. Being a man of culture and learning, and seeing the need of secular and religious training among those about him, he at once, although a layman—organized a congregation, and with his own hands, helped to build a house of worship. In that day his work being of a missionary character, involved much time—his parish covering what now includes five counties, and as he lived on his farm at Centre Square, known as the Boehm—Reiff—Nolan

farm, and his travels to the various stations in his large parish was mostly on horseback,—his labors were most strenuous; the story of his life and labors are a matter of early church history in Pennsylvania, and though unusually interesting, can not be considered in this paper.

Among Boehm's successors in the ministry at this church was Rev. John Weikle; he was in service here during the Revolutionary War and this gentleman was much disposed to mix politics with his religion in what, to his congregation—seemed a most scandalous manner; tradition says that the parson, nothing daunted by congregational disapproval—became such a positive agitator in defending the rights of the Colonies that he preached some very stirring sermons to men of many minds on the subject of national affairs, on one occasion taking as his text, Ecclesiastes, 4:13.

Preaching against British rule did not satisfy this militant patriot, however, and as he owned a valuable horse which he prized highly, he tried to inspire him with the spirit which his own enthusiasm demanded; his method of doing this was unique; it was his custom to lead the horse out on the parsonage lawn, tie him and then practice rifle shooting over his head in order that he should become accustomed to the smell of powder and the noise of arms, should his services be required in the cause of freedom; it is needless to say that these aggressive proceedings were the proverbial "last straw" and he was promptly dismissed by his congregation.

CHURCH SCHOOL

In 1776 the people of this parish erected a parochial school house; having no stoves they built an open fire place from end to end of the eastern side of the building. It has been related that on March 10th, 1804—when John Staub was buried at Boehm's—the funeral procession, made up of men and women, came on horse-back through sleet and rain, and on arriving here were so cold and wet that before burying the dead they had to go to the school house to get warm.

In 1813 Blue Bell had a great illumination and celebration in honor of General Harrison's capture of Malden; and in the

following year, feeling the martial spirit still prevailing them—they organized an Infantry Company, called "The Pigeontown Guards" with Captain Kneezel as commander.

Those of us who live so far away from the history and experiences of this period such an organization may seem to have been of comparatively little moment, but it must be remembered that this Guard was fulfilling a duty at the call of the Government, because the four great commercial cities, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston were compelled to take the defensive, owing to the British invasion via. the Chesapeake Bay and every military organization was important.

THE ROBERTS—MILLER FARM

Coming north along the Skippack Road, we reach the Miller farm; it lies directly across from the Whitpain High School at Blue Bell; and the present house, built in 1861—stands about 300 yards back from the road, with a drive bordered on each side with beautiful old maples, leading up to it.

This place was bought in 1764 by Edward Roberts and as it was owned by two separate parties he was obliged to get two separate deeds. Tradition says that at one time a tannery was in operation here, and that huge vats were placed east of the house and between it and the turnpike; and that these vats still exist though sealed with heavy planks and covered with earth. Along the north side of the place runs another road leading to what is commonly called "The Union", referring to a "Little church around the corner" where liberal religious ideas were supposed to be tolerated.

Somewhere on the plantation, presumably about 400 yards back along this road—a number of Continental soldiers were buried.

Edward Roberts in his day was assessed as "a gentleman", and when he took his title to "a mansion in the skies"—he left his earthly titles to his son Amos; now Amos Roberts had two sons, Levi and Charles, and when he reached middle age he decided to divide his plantation into two equal shares, giving one part to Levi the other to Charles.

It so happened that Charles Roberts had one only child—a daughter—Catherine, who married William Miller; at her father's death she, of course, inherited her father's share of the original farm; some years later her uncle Levi Roberts died and her husband William Miller bought the other share, so that after many years the tract originally owned by Amos Roberts was united in ownership by husband and wife and at Mr. Miller's death Caroline (Roberts) Miller became the sole possessor of the plantation bought by her great-grand-father Edward Roberts, in 1764.

At her death it was bought by her son, John Faber Miller, a Judge of the Montgomery County Courts; when Judge Miller came into possession of the place there passed into his hands together with the title, five separate marriage certificates, all signed by the guests present at the nuptials of his ancestors, covering a period of more than 150 years, showing a continuous line of Quaker ancestry and ownership, with but one exception, i.e. Judge Miller's father who was not a member of the Society of Friends.

In this connection we would like to relate an incident concerning the boyhood days of Judge Miller which showed the distinctive characteristic which possibly fitted him for his present high position; it goes without saying, that Whitpain township is duly proud of him, and those of us who knew him in his boyhood days—very naturally expected great things of him. We have heard it said that when his mother, with her boys in line—visited the country store near by, nothing in the place escaped the notice of young Miller and his elder brother Charles; and the combined pleas, warnings and protests of their mother, and the proprietor of the store—counted as nothing until such time as they had solved to their own satisfaction—every question which came into their minds. When I recalled this fact to Judge Miller some time ago he accounted for it by saying:—"Such a very important event as a visit to that country store, excused everything".

NOTE—This paper presented at a meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, under the above title, is part of the "History of Whitpain Township" published in 46 chapters by the "Ambler Gazette".

C. A. B.

THE ROCK OUTCROP AND MINERALS OF THE WHITE-MARSH AND CHESTER VALLEYS

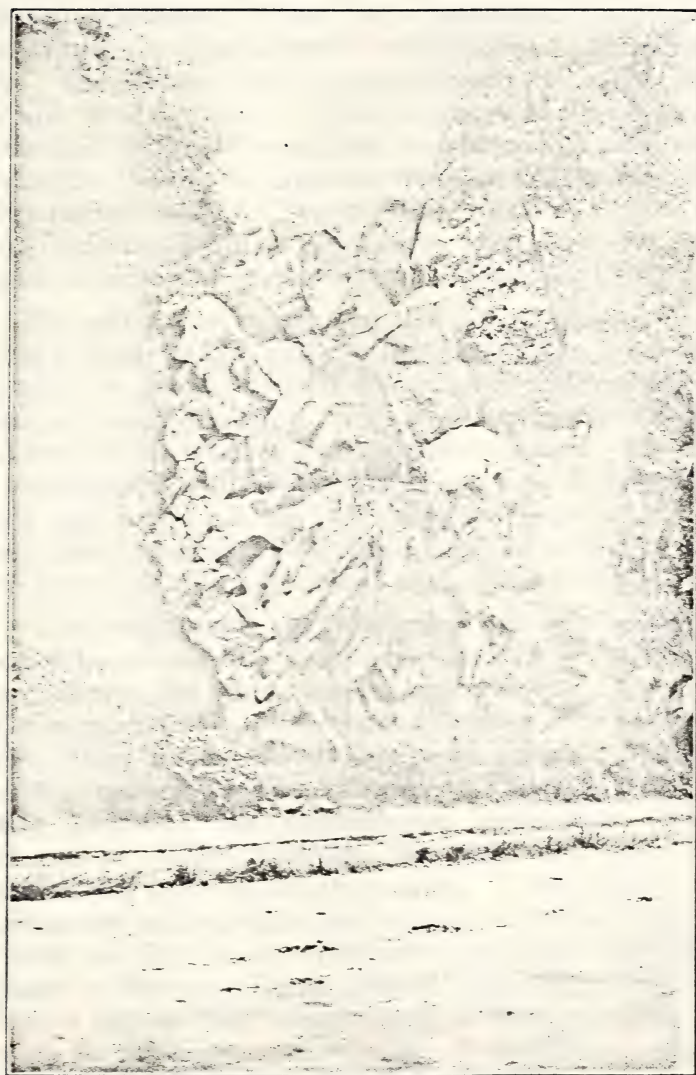
By **PROF. O. S. CARTER**

Before starting from Spring Mill to cross the valley to Norristown, we will take a look down the Schuylkill—there you will see the Schuylkill Water Gap—very many years ago the river broke through the south hill of the valley—and went on its winding way to the sea via Manayunk and Philadelphia. In cutting through—it exposed the geological formation and was of great benefit to geologists in the study of the rocks and their stratification.

From Spring Mill down the river—the following formations were exposed—1st Gneiss; 2nd Granite; 3rd Hornblende; 4th Serpentine; 5th Talc or Soapstone; 6th Mica Schist.

Leaving Spring Mill on the road to Cedar Grove—first we have the Silica out-cropping; next the Dolomite Limestone on the Righter farm. From what I can learn this was worked extensively about the time of the Revolution—I asked Mr. George W. Righter if he had any data with regard to its being worked and he said it was before his time and he is no “spring chicken”—as he is about eighty (80) years of age. There were two lime kilns in connection with the quarry, the remains of which can be plainly seen today; and excavations can be seen on the east side of the road; but the main quarry and kilns were on the west side of the mill-race.

Next we come to the Trap Rock formation; this, I am told—where it rises in a pyramidal form at least fifty feet high. of the pottery at Barren Hill; it passes through Conshohocken, and in West Conshohocken the finest out-cropping is to be seen—where it rises in a pyramidal form at least fifty feet high. Going west we find it crossing the road at the old burnt grist mill at the Gulph that was built in 1747—near which Washington’s army camped on their way to Valley Forge. We can still



OUTCROPPING OF TRAP-ROCK
Front Street, West Conshohocken, Pa.

follow it out through Radnor. The Trap Rock is, I think, the hardest rock known, I speak from experience as I had to do a lot of hard pounding to get the small specimens I am showing you. You can't bore a hole in it, and the only way to fracture it is with "mud caps" or fire. The first plan is to place dynamite cartridges on top of the rock and cover them with damp earth to exclude the air; the explosion which ensues is so rapid that they fracture the rock. The other plan is to build a fire on the rock and when it is right hot to throw water on it—the result is the same as when you throw water on a hot lamp chimney.

The next formation we meet is the Conshohocken Stone. It is a silicate of lime about 16 to 18% of silica; it is a very tough stone and is principally used in heavy bridge work; and also for house foundations. It is not used as much as formerly as concrete has taken its place in many structures. The Conshohocken vein is at least one quarter of a mile in width. There is a small marble vein that runs through the centre of it. The only place I know of it being quarried was on the Conard farm on the west side of the Schuylkill. It was used for fluxing stone.

The next formation is the Marble. This runs through the valley for many miles—The principal quarries on the vein are as follows:—The Hitner quarries at Marble Hall; The Cedar Grove quarries; The Henderson and the King-of-Prussia quarries. Many of these quarries have been abandoned. The cause is that granite and Indiana limestone have taken its place. Its first competitor was Hummelstown brownstone. Marble is out of fashion now—but the time will come when marble will come to the front again. I think there is no handsomer building-stone than that used in the new church at Swede and Elm streets, Norristown, and that in the marble house at Main and George Streets, Norristown, which was built in 1873 and looks almost as fresh as when it was built. The stone for the church came from the King-of-Prussia quarries and for the Potts house—from Cedar Grove.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia is a testimony to the durability of Cedar Grove marble; the trimmings in that building came from this quarry.

The vein at Cedar Grove is four times as wide as at any of the other marble quarries, and has a much greater variety of color—much of the coloring is caused by free carbon,—the darker the stone the whiter it burns when made into lime. I had the pleasure of assisting in the selection of the stone for the baptismal font of Calvary Church, Conshohocken, and if I remember right,—there are four or five different colored stone used. The marble trimmings of the church were also from Cedar Grove quarries.

The Court House at Norristown is from stone quarried at King-of-Prussia.

Marble seems to love company. The following are its traveling companions:—iron ore, fire clay, kaolin, loam, sand, and either sharp or building-sand. They are all found within one-quarter mile north of the marble vein.

Through the kindness of George W. Keys of Harmonville, I am enabled to show you specimens of the above; and in addition—he has given me a specimen of Lignite—which is wood turned to coal. Webster's definition is: "mineral coal retaining the texture of the wood from which it was formed, and burning with an empyreumatic odor". This Lignite was found in a dark-clay vein-eighty feet below the surface.

The next rock of value that we meet in going north is the Dolomite, or Magnesia-Limestone. This is extensively quarried from George and Walter Corson quarries near Lancasterville, and extends to Cedar-Hollow quarries in Chester county. The lime is used for building and land purposes, and a large quantity of it is used in the manufacture of magnesia.

At Swedeland there is an out-cropping of quartz that was formerly mined there, and close by it—is found a black rock that is strongly fireproof, and is the only deposit of that mineral that I know of in this part of the state or anywhere else.



POLISHED SLAB OF BLACK MARBLE FROM KING-OF-PRUSSIA, PA., QUARRIES
Now on exhibition at State College, Pa.

MARBLE QUARRIES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

By W. M. SULLIVAN

This interesting paper, which William M. Sullivan, local marble dealer prepared and was read by Lyman Kratz, entitled "Montgomery County Marble Quarries," follows:

What was then called the Reeseville quarry near King-of-Prussia, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, was opened in the year of 1815 by John Brooke for the purpose of getting stone to build an addition to his house, after which, there was no more stone quarried until 1827, when he started quarrying again intermittently until 1844.

Then David Adams, seeing the possibilities of a demand for this marble, purchased the quarry and took Samuel Brooke into partnership which continued until December 31, 1885, when Samuel Brooke's interest was bought by Franklin Derr, of Norristown, Penna., and was continued under the firm name of Adams & Derr. It was at this time that the Montgomery county court house was built, the front of which including the large columns was taken from this quarry. The Adams & Derr firm continued until February 10, 1877, when David Adams' interest was purchased by Franklin Derr, who died within a few months after becoming the owner. The property then was taken by his two sons, Henry A. and John J. and continued under the firm name of F. Derr's Sons until about 1880, when John J. Derr purchased the interest of Henry A. Derr, and continued business under the name of John J. Derr until 1882, when the quarry was purchased by Daniel R. Schweyer, of Bowers, Penna., and Levi H. Liess, of Reading, Penna., and continued under the name of Schweyer & Liess until about 1905, when Mr. Liess' interest was purchased by H. A. Schweyer, the firm still retaining the name of Schweyer & Liess. In 1910 Harry Millard, of Lebanon, Penna., bought an interest in the concern and it is now being continued under the name of the Millard-Schweyer Co.

This marble is of very fine texture, is practically non-absorbent, and very durable. There are three colors in this quarry, dark blue, mottled blue, and light blue, all of which are susceptible to a very high polish.

Among the large buildings in which this marble has been used, are the Montgomery County Court House, Norristown, Penna.; the Girard College building, Philadelphia, Penna.; Williamsport Court House; Wernersville State Hospital, and many other public buildings, school houses and churches throughout this and other states.

The exhibit from this quarry at the World's Fair, Chicago, in 1892 consisted of a dark blue slab, polished, with the American eagle cut thereon. Dimensions of the slab were 16 feet 2 inches by 6 feet 9 inches, which up to that time was considered the largest marble slab ever quarried. This slab was afterward shipped to and is now in possession of Pennsylvania State College, and a photograph of which is reproduced.

When running full, they employ from sixty to eighty men in the quarry and mill, and from twenty to thirty-five men in the cutting sheds, which are equipped with the latest stone cutting machinery.

There are other marble quarries in Montgomery county, viz.: the Henderson quarry, at Henderson station, C. V. R. R., which was opened about 1785, and produced for many years a very fine blue marble; but for some reason was abandoned about 1889. There was also the Potts quarry, (Cedar Grove) near Spring Mill, which was a good producer for many years of two shades of very fine marble, the blue and mottled-white-and-blue the latter being used principally for the manufacture of mantels, fire places, and interior polished work of all descriptions. The writer in the fall of last year, had the order to restore the fire places (six in number) in Congress Hall (a part of Independence Hall, which was reopened by President Wilson) and was fortunate enough to get some of the mottled blue and white for replacing, the originals having been built of the same.

There are also the Hitner quarries at Marble Hall, about five miles below Norristown, which were great producers for many years of both blue and white marble. Some of our older

residents no doubt remember the time when this marble was hauled by large string teams to Philadelphia.

The front of the Montgomery National Bank, at Norristown, 1854, is built of the Hitner white marble, and I know of no other white marble either foreign or domestic that is finer in texture or as durable. There is also a marble from the same quarry that is beautifully shaded from a rich pink to a delicate brown. A number of these blocks that had remained about the edge of the quarry for over fifty years, were recently hauled away, and sawed into slabs for interior work. If you will walk through the Penn street level of the Boyer Arcade, Main street below Swede, where some of it was used, and examine the wainscot paneling, you can form some idea of the beauty of this marble. Some of the same lot was used, blended with a foreign marble, in the interior marble work of the lobby of one of the large hotels, recently built in Philadelphia.

This marble, while not translucent, is richer in coloring than some of the Mexican or Brazilian onyx.

The durability and weather-resisting qualities of all these Montgomery County marbles, is shown in the excellent state of preservation that you will find in a number of grave stones in our older cemeteries, especially Trappe Lutheran, Evansburg, Valley Baptist and St. Davids.

THE KEITH HOUSE IN GRAEME PARK

By **LUTHER PARSONS**

Sir William Keith, Scotch laird, was appointed Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania by Hannah Penn, under the advice of James Logan, when William Penn was in his declining years, though Penn was able to sign and seal the commission.

Keith reached Philadelphia on the 31st of May, 1717, and was received by Governor Gookin, with the Aldermen, Commonalty, and Officers of the Corporation, on his landing. His commission, with the King's approbation attached, was proclaimed at the court house. For a time he occupied the Shippen mansion on Chestnut street, and the younger sons of English aristocratic families, who were sent to America to make their fortunes, made their court to him, for was he not a Lord, a handsome personage, and entertained lavishly? He made himself acceptable to the farming element by refusing to call the Provincial Council at harvest time, as it might interfere with their securing their crops. In return for this courtesy when he asked an appropriation for his salary of £500 per year, it was readily acceded to and £50 more added to pay his rent.

The Quakers, however, were averse, as they deplored his ostentatious and extravagant mode of living. He has been variously described, both as to looks and manners. He had a noble presence, a knight of olden time when in armor, a pleasing, placid face, his head surmounted with splendid brown hair, curled in ringlets from the crown of his head down over his shoulders, and tied at the back into a queue with a bow of ribbon. As it was customary in those days to wear a wig though not bald-headed, he may have been red-headed. He wrote his name in a fine hand, with a sharp-pointed quill pen, but turned his letter "e" the wrong way, possibly to prevent a forgery. Joshua Francis Fisher calls him, briefly but pointedly, "selfish and artful," Logan found him "abominable." Franklin regarded

him first as a gracious patron, and later as a contemptible deceiver. However he wrote of him fairly. Admitting the tendency to giving promises which he could not fulfil, he wrote that "Keith was an ingenious sensible man, a pretty good writer and a good Governor for the people, though not for the Proprietaries, whose instructions he sometimes disregarded."

James Logan went to England in 1724, to complain of Keith's conduct in trying to oust Logan as Secretary of Council, and returned with a letter, signed by Hannah Penn, but undoubtedly dictated by himself for the language contrasts signally with a letter sent a short time after, to Logan.

Keith was a canny Scotchman, descended from the Keiths of Ludquahairn in the north of Scotland, baroneted in 1629. He was appointed by Queen Anne, Surveyor-General of Customs, succeeding Colonel Quarry. He had visited Philadelphia, and studied the surrounding country, but why he selected this out-of-the-way place, at that early day, to reside in, seemed to be a puzzle to all our excursionists. He bought 1200 acres in 1718, of Andrew Hamilton, and contracted with John Kirk, of Abington, in 1721, for the construction of a mansion; and John was an honest builder, for at the present time, with a century of entire neglect, the house still stands, and while absolutely plain and even ugly on the exterior, yet it is solid, and in the interior has an elegance of finish and fine workmanship that can hardly be excelled at the same cost at the present time, all hand work, and solid as a rock.

Of course in the upper stories, owing to destruction of shingles, the plastering of the ceilings has fallen. With a little aid in paying for labor, the house could last a hundred years more.

The interior has been heretofore described, and for those who are curious about colonial days, a trip out will repay them. It is located on the Governor's road, and Mrs. Penrose, who lives in a very comfortable farm house, erected in 1810, is very willing to admit visitors.

THE BUCKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY KIN- DRED OF GENERAL U. S. GRANT

By CHAS. S. MANN

I am here this afternoon by invitation of your committee to tell you something of the early history of Gen. Grant's forefathers—to show the part they played in the affairs of their time and note the influences by which their lives were guided and surrounded.

Thirty years ago Gen. Grant lay stricken with an incurable disease at Mount McGregor in the Adirondack Mountains where he was bravely striving to complete his "Personal Memoirs" and place on permanent record the recollections of his active and eventful career.

The physicians in attendance were daily sending out bulletins to inform anxious multitudes of his countrymen of his alarming and critical condition. The whole nation seemed bowed in sympathy and solicitude.

Meanwhile the dauntless hero of the Civil War, in spite of physical weakness and pain persistently continued work upon his book. Everywhere there was a general revival of interest in the brilliant and remarkable career of the great Commander.

Newspapers and magazines, east and west, eagerly sought out and brought to public notice every available fact and incident, connected with his many-sided life and public service. All the world recognized the passing away of one of the colossal figures in American history—if not the most noble military hero of his age.

His death occurred just after the closing days of my school life and every sketch or review of his life and achievements appealed to me with special and impressive emphasis. Ever since I began reading history in Peter Parley's school books when I was ten years old—I had always been deeply interested in American biography and history and I wasn't at all particular whether it related to local, state or National affairs.

One of the proudest recollections of my humble life will ever be that red-letter Saturday in Dec. 1879, when Philadelphia tendered Gen. Grant her matchless welcome on his return from that triumphal journey around the world.

He had sailed from Philadelphia on that delightful trip, two years and seven months before and came home by way of San Francisco. After receiving continuous ovations throughout his journey thru the leading cities of the great States to the west of us he arrived in the City of Brotherly Love on a raw, chilling, cloudy day, about the middle of December, which I shall never forget as I stood, with my uncle, on a brownstone stairway at Broad and Brown Streets, shivering in the cold—with scarcely standing room—for four long hours—and too closely crowded to change my position amid that living wall of people who thronged that gaily decorated avenue for many miles—patiently waiting to catch a glimpse of the great soldier and statesman.

He was the only great personality of equal fame that I had ever seen, and the immense procession of troops and civic organizations that paraded in his honor was the most impressive that I ever witnessed.

After all the various accounts and details of his civil and military career had been diligently collected and published by enterprising writers, it still appeared clearly evident to me that there yet remained a very important chapter concerning the history of his maternal ancestors—the Simpson family—and its connection by intermarriage in Pennsylvania, prior to their emigration to Ohio—that was practically unpublished or unknown.

To supply this missing link, and to show the close relations existing between his mother's people in Ohio, and older generations of the family in Bucks and Montgomery Counties—was regarded as a matter of considerable historic importance and one worthy of the most patient and painstaking research. I felt that some effort should be made immediately to gather and preserve whatever data might yet be gleaned from county and church records and more especially from the recollections of the few surviving friends and relatives of the family still living at an advanced age—before it would be forever too late, and their reminiscences swept away in oblivion by the flight of time like

so much other interesting knowledge of the old pioneers that have gone, to our lasting regret—beyond recall.

As I was a native resident of Horsham where three generations of the Simpson family had lived, and was also a descendant of the same race of immigrants, and knew that older generations of my family had been long identified with the same historic church where they worshiped long ago—I came to think that I was, in many respects, in a favorable position to begin original research.

After the Simpson family had been gone from the neighborhood for nearly seventy years it was yet an oft repeated tradition that "Gen. Grant's mother had been born and reared in Horsham." A few of our oldest inhabitants cherished pleasant recollections of acquaintance with members of John Simpson's family in their early youth.

Their testimony was meagre and fragmentary of course—as no complete and definite historical record had ever been made, so far as known, of the Simpson kith and kin.

When opportunity offered I had reference to county histories of Penna. and Ohio; records of the ancient Presbyterian Church in Warwick township, near Hartsville, familiarly known as the "Old Neshaminy Church"—I made notes from tombs in the cemetery and likewise from those in the old Newtown Presbyterian churchyard seeking data concerning the earliest generations of the family. Also went to Upper Makefield to visit my father's cousin, Mrs. Isabella Simpson Keith—afterward wrote to ex-sheriff John Torbert Simpson of Doylestown, for information and he came down to Horsham to see me and deliver it personally.

He advised me to interview Mrs. Mary Hough Barnsley, of Newtown, one of the few surviving cousins of Gen. Grant's mother who had formerly corresponded with her; in 1874 she entertained Hannah Simpson Grant; when the latter had visited for a week at her home in Newtown and presented Mrs. Barnsley with the excellent photograph from which the portrait—today presented to the historical society—was copied by MacIntyre, of Philada.



HANNAH SIMPSON GRANT
The mother of Gen. U. S. Grant, former President of the United States

Cousin James T. Keith, of Newtown, supplied complete records of intermarriages between Simpsons, Torberts and Keiths—Mrs. Margaret McKinstry Brady of Eureka, and her brother Nathan Bates McKinstry, of Deer Lodge, Montana—also Mrs. Margaret Weir Kentner, of Moreland township, all helped to furnish the long missing information concerning the relationship existing between certain branches of the Wiers, McKinstrys and Simpsons.

The richest vein of material I ever discovered, however, in this field of research—came by way of one of those long submerged scraps of information that sometimes come to the surface, anonymously on the current that carries the “short paragraphs” and “brevities” of the local newspaper, where I learned that “Samuel Simpson, a brother of Gen. Grant’s mother, was then living at an extreme age in Bantam, Ohio.” I think that was in 1885 or 86.

Early in the year 1886 I addressed a letter to Mr. Simpson in care of the postmaster at that village. I introduced myself and stated my purpose, inquiring if he could send me any information, or copy of records pertaining to members of his family who emigrated from Pennsylvania before or after 1820.

In the course of a few weeks I received a reply that was far more interesting and encouraging than I had anticipated. Eventually thru successive communications, I was put on the trail of a budget of information from original sources that will always be of the utmost historical interest and value.

Mr. Simpson was truly delighted to hear from his old home in Penna. He said that he remembered my grandfather Mann very well and told how he had gone to the election with him to cast his first vote for James Monroe in 1817, when elections for this district were held at the “Old Blue House” in Whitmarsh township where Fortside Inn now stands.

Mr. Simpson’s letter revealed the fact that our families had once been intimate friends and associates; and with such excellent credentials as a passport I gradually came into communication with various members of the Simpson, Griffith, Ross, Burke, Ashburn, Burroughs, Elrod, Gatch and Winans families in Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin, which intermarried

with succeeding generations of the Simpsons who came from Montgomery county.

It was thru their unfailing courtesy and heartiest co-operation that a thoroly complete chain of connection was established which had long been lost to us in Pennsylvania. While at the same time, from the data forwarded to the west from here, they were enabled to trace the degree of relationship connecting them with their long separated but not forgotten kindred in the Delaware Valley.

It has long been common knowledge that Gen. Grant was born of Pennsylvania parentage on both sides of the house, his father having been born in the western section of the State, in Westmoreland county and his mother in the south eastern part—in Montgomery County—but as my investigations proceeded I came to find strong evidence that Grant—(even in a far greater measure than Lincoln, his immortal leader and compatriot in saving the Union—who was a more remote product of Penna. antecedents:)—that Grant—both in his intellectual and physical makeup—was distinctly a product of Penna. blood and breeding.

Truly it is no exaggeration to claim that he was the direct progeny of the mental and moral atmosphere of eastern Pennsylvania which was stamped so indelibly upon many of his near kindred who were once so closely identified with this region.

There were numerous immigrants bearing the surname of Simpson who came to Bucks County and also others who came to Philadelphia County in the Colonial period of Penn's Province. The limits of our present county of Montgomery as we all know beginning at that period and for more than a century afterwards—embraced both historically and territorially with the city that Penn named and founded and where the Declaration of Independence was signed and proclaimed.

From the fragmentary accounts that have come down to us from those stirring and strenuous times and the conflicting claims that have often been made—it is rather difficult to decide just how closely the different branches of the family were related.

Mrs. Mary H. Barnsley wrote me in 1886,—“There is such a lack of egotism about the Simpson family that it makes it very difficult to gather much of their family history.”

Gen. Grant in his autobiography states—“I have little information about my mother’s ancestors; her family took no interest in genealogy, so that my grandfather knew only as far back as his grandfather.”

The pioneers were kept so busily occupied by the arduous duties of building homes, providing for their families and conquering the wilderness—that there was little time for attending to minor details and we certainly ought to excuse them for lesser shortcomings.

Samuel Simpson claimed that his fore-fathers arrived in Penna., about 1730. Col. W. W. H. Davis states in his “History of Buckingham the Empire township” that the Simpsons came between 1748-50. I think there is proof that both statements are not incorrect nor as contradictory as they may appear.

John Torbert Simpson relates how his grandfather William came with his parents’ family from the Scotch-Irish settlements above the “Forks of the Delaware.” There “Alexander Hunter, a Presbyterian from the North of Ireland arrived with about thirty families in 1730.” He planted settlements at Martin’s Creek and Hunter’s Creek on the state lands several miles above Easton—in what are now known as the townships of Upper and Lower Mt. Bethel, Northampton Co. A Presbyterian church was built there in 1746. Mt. Bethel was the scene of the self-sacrificing labors of Rev. David Brainard, who preached in the wilderness both to the white settlers and the Indians in 1744-45-46.

In June, 1746, the people of Hunter’s settlements petitioned the Court of Bucks County to create the township of Mt. Bethel and among the prominent signers of that petition were Alexander Hunter, Robert Lyle, Patrick Vance, James Anderson, James Simpson, Jonathan Carmichael, Thomas Clark, Joseph Thurston and others.

After the defeat of Braddock in 1755 there followed a furious storm of savage warfare along the whole frontier of the Province. The Indians incited to vengeance and hostility fre-

quently attacked unprotected settlers; scalping, murdering and burning—on their stealthy forays until many families were compelled to leave their plantations and return to the older settlements for safety.

Between 1730 and 1750 occurred that great invasion of the sturdy aggressive race of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who stamped the map of Pennsylvania so thickly with towns named after their former homes in the towns and counties of Ulster that the Proprietary Governors were gravely alarmed lest it would become an Irish Province!

These people were Protestants who had been brought to Ulster by King James (the same ruler who planted the English Colonies in North America) and placed upon the lands confiscated by the King from rebellious native chieftains of Northern Ireland.

They were Scotchmen who kept their lineage unalloyed and remained Scottish in faith and practice tho-for five generations they had not seen nor set foot on Scotland's soil. They were of Scottish blood and training and Irish by land of birth and environment; tinged with a dash of English from soldiers of Cromwell's dissembled army who fled to Ulster when the English Commonwealth was overthrown.

In Bucks County they made large and permanent settlements around the Forks of the Neshaminy in Warwick and Warrington. Several families also crossed the border and took up land in the Quaker settlement of Horsham. They clustered about Deep Run, Dublin and Doylestown; freely scattering above Newtown and in Upper Makefield and Buckingham, while the more daring and adventurous bands under Thomas Craig and Alexander Hunter penetrated the wilderness of the Lehigh and upper Delaware and planted colonies under the shadows of the Blue Mountains as early as 1730-32.

Among the early Scotch-Irish settlers of Buckingham and vicinity were William and James Simpson, presumably brothers as their descendents always claimed to be cousins. Col. W. W. H. Davis wrote me in 1887 that there was no doubt in his mind that the early Simpsons of Bucks Co., were all related; his grandmother on his father's side was Anne Simpson who mar-

ried John Davis 1783. Of the aforesaid James Simpson of Buckingham who, in all probability, was the same man who settled in Mt. Bethel with Alexander Hunter about 1730—and later returned to lower Bucks Co., after the Indian outbreak along the frontier—we have record of four sons—John, born 1744, James, Samuel and William. John went to Dauphin Co., at Fort Hunter on the Susquehanna—married Margaret Murray and afterward removed to Huntingdon Co., where he died in 1807. James went south to North Carolina or Georgia. Concerning Samuel, we have no data; but William, born about 1740, who told his grandchildren how he had sat on his mother's knee, when a child listening to the missionaries preach in the settlements above the forks of the Lehigh and the Delaware,—married Isabella Wilson and reared a large family, his death occurred in 1825, in his 85th year. His wife died 1838, in her 90th year, both are interred in Solebury burying ground.

The story of General Grant's lineage however,—directly belongs to William and John Simpson of Buckingham, believed to have been sons of the William and Jane Simpson buried at Newtown Presbyterian churchyard; the father born about 1710; died 1794, and the mother born about 1716, died 1801.

William, the elder brother, born 1732-33 came from Buckingham and purchased 100 acres of land of John Penn in 1766. He married Nancy, the daughter of Matthew Hines of New Britain; in 1793 he purchased a large tract of land in Warrington. Their children were John, who lived and died in Bucks Co.—Mary—Matthew and Anne—who married John Davis 1783, and ultimately became grandmother to Col. W. W. H. Davis, of the 104th Pa. Regt. and author of "The History of Bucks County," and founder of The Bucks County Historical Society. Matthew Simpson married and went to Ohio with his family in 1810. They are believed to have been the parents of Matthew Simpson who was born at Cadiz, Ohio, in the same year and subsequently became the eminent Methodist preacher and Bishop who so powerfully upheld the Union cause during the darkest period of the civil war and who also officiated at the funeral of President Lincoln. Robert McKinstry Griffith of Bethel, Ohio, a first cousin of Gen. Grant wrote me that he re-

membered his mother and grandmother Simpson discussing their relationship to the eminent minister and Bishop.

William Simpson, of Warrington, had served in the Penna. Militia in the same company with his brother John, of Horsham, during the Revolutionary campaign in this state. Once, when he was home on a furlough, a party of tories searched his house intending to take him prisoner, fortunately he escaped detection by hiding down in the cellar, under an overturned hog'shead. His death occurred in 1816, in his 84th year.

John Simpson, brother of preceding, born about 1738, married a daughter, or sister, of Capt. William Roberts of New Britain, so tradition says, and came to the Horsham side of the County Line and purchased 170 acres of land in the north corner of the township in Nov. 1763.

The children of John and Hannah Roberts Simpson were John Jr., born June 2, 1767, Hannah, born 1769, and Anne the youngest, born 1773. Hannah married Benjamin Hough of Warrington, in 1790, and they were the parents of nine children as follows:—John Simpson, 1792; Anna, 1794; Joseph, 1798; Benjamin, 1801; Silas, 1804; Hannah, 1807; William, 1809; Samuel, 1812, and Mary, 1814. Hannah Simpson Hough, the mother, died April 3rd, 1848 in her 78 year. Her husband, Benjamin Hough, died a few months after in his 78th year. Both were interred close beside the Simpsons in Neshaminy Cemetery.

Anne Simpson, youngest daughter of John, Sr., and Hannah, his wife,—married Jonathan Smith, of Montgomery County. They went to Muncy, Lycoming Co. John Simpson, Sr., was collector of taxes for Horsham township in 1776, where he was assessed for a farm of 150 acres, 4 horses, 4 cattle and 14 sheep—which were rated at a taxable valuation of 14£ 4s.

There appears to be no date on the old house which stands on a rising elevation on the east side of the old Butler Road, opened about 1735, from Samuel Butler's Mill on the north-west branch of the Neshaminy (now Chalfont), and extending down to the present borough of Ambler where it intersects with the old Bethlehem Road.

The old home was evidently built at different periods of time, the middle part was originally constructed of logs and weather-boarded at a later date, together with the stone out-kitchen, with a primitive oven of ample capacity at the west end, it was probably built to serve as the first dwelling of the former proprietor.

The large two-story stone wall addition, was built, according to family tradition, before the the beginning of the war of the Revolution; it was surely constructed for strength and durability, and remained remarkably well preserved after standing the brunt of the elements for more than a century and a quarter, and is still practically unchanged from the time Simpsons left its shelter, until it was altered and remodeled, in 1904, by Mr. William D. Worth, the present owner.

There was an immense stone chimney in the center of the house that occupied much space; its expansive fireplace was wide enough to admit logs, ten feet long, upon the open hearth. The other rooms on the first floor contained two quaint "corner fireplaces" for warming the house with open grate wood fires which was the universal custom before iron stoves were invented.

Down in the cellar there were massive arches of masonry to support the great wide hearthstones and chimneys above. A very good photograph of the old Simpson homestead (as it was in the olden time, unchanged, except by the scars of a century), was taken at my request in 1890, by Mr. H. S. Cope, photographer, of Norristown. Many copies of the picture were distributed among the Simpson descendants in the west where it was in eager demand as a family souvenir.

In 1896 a copy was obtained from a representative of the family by Hamlin Garland and used as an illustration in his "Early life of Gen. U. S. Grant," published by S. S. McClure, in New York.

The tradition that claimed that the brothers John and William Simpson both served in the American Revolution, I found fully confirmed in Penna. Archives in the library of the Historical Society of Penna. According to those authentic records the names of John and William Simpson were enrolled

in Capt. David Marple's 5th Co. 4th Batallion, Phila., Co., Militia; of which William Dean was Colonel and Robert Loller, Lient. Col., both came from Horsham township, which also sent McCleans, Mullins, Murrays, McNairs, Manns, Parks, Dunns, Summers and many other representatives of her older families and gives our ancient township a very creditable record as a supporter of the cause of Liberty and Independence when so many of their neighbors were either neutral or loyal to the British Crown.

Col. Robert Loller, in the course of his busy life had been a schoolmaster, surveyor, farmer and an associate county judge. He was son-in-law of Archibald McClean. At his death, in 1808 he bequeathed the bulk of his estate, as a permanent endowment, for the maintenance of Loller Academy at Hatboro. An institution which has been, ever since 1811 a famous educational centre for the lower end of Montgomery County.

The Penna. Militia, or Potter's Brigade as it was often called, was in command of Brig. Gen. James Potter, one of the bold pioneers who just after the treaty of Fort Stanwix—opened to white settlers "The great Purchase" of Indian lands on the sources of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, in 1768.

Gen. Potter had been one of the first to pass up the West Branch, enter the Bald Eagle Creek Valley and was over Nittany Mountain to Penn's Valley—where he built a stockade fort which became a noted outpost against the Indians on the frontier. His little company of backwoods pioneers were driven off by the Indian atrocities of 1775 and he soon took up arms for the American cause.

Gen. James Potter's Militia Brigade saw service in the Penna. campaign, beginning late in 1776-77, and part of 1778, and participated in the events at Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, and were camped near Valley Forge.

Our well known Militia Hill, in Whitmarsh township, was so named because the Penna. Militia encamped there a few weeks after the Battle of Germantown and remained until the Army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

Mrs. Barnsley, already quoted in this paper, has repeated the story of how her grandmother Simpson, on Oct. 4th, 1777,

heard the booming of cannon at Germantown in the early morning while she was kneading bread, and throughout the day anxiously paced the floor apprehensive for the safety of her husband and friends in the army.

Late in the afternoon as she was taking her bread from the oven, a party of soldiers in retreat, came up the road and stopped at the house to satisfy their hunger and thirst. She generously gave them the whole batch of her fresh baked bread and then made short cakes for her family's supper. From those panic stricken soldiers she first learned the disheartening results of that battle.

John Simpson, Sr., came back to the farm after serving in the army and lived to tell his grand children of Trenton, Chadds Ford and Valley Forge. The old flint-lock rifle which he carried in the Revolution is still carefully treasured by his descendants in Ohio, the barrel of it measures 48 inches, and the stock 18 inches. Nothing has ever been changed about it but the lock and it is said that it will still shoot as far and kick as hard as any gun in Clermont county, Ohio. John Simpson, Sr., died, Aug. 16 1804, in his 66th year, though his widow survived him several years and died, Jan. 22, 1821, in her 79th year. Both were buried at Neshaminy churchyard, in Warwick township, Bucks county, Pa.

The old homestead was advertised for sale in *The Penna. Advertiser*, in Oct. 1805, as the "property of John Simpson, deceased, containing 170 acres of good land; a two story stone house with two rooms on each floor, and a log kitchen adjoining, a cellar under the whole building; smoke house and well of excellent water at the door; a log barn and a pump in the cow-yard." Administrators were John Simpson, Jr., and Benjamin Hough.

John Simpson, Jr., whose birth in 1767 has already been given, was married to Rebecca Weir, of Warrington, Oct. 17th, 1793, by Rev. Nathaniel Irvin, of Neshaminy Church. Samuel Weir, father of Rebecca, lived on Spruce Hill, at "Weir's Corner" where the old state road crosses the Doylestown pike; his children were John, James, Rebecca and Mary Weir. James died unmarried; John married Mary Walker and raised up a

family of eight children, as follows: James, Nathan, Thomas, Robert, Samuel, Priscilla, Margaret and Mary.

Mary Weir, sister of Rebecca Weir Simpson, married Robert McKinstry, of Warrington; they were the parents of seven children—John, Jane, Robert, Nathan, James, William and Henry McKinstry. All the offspring of the Weir and McKinstry families were first cousins of Gen. Grant's mother.

In 1794, the next spring after his marriage, John Simpson, Jr., bought the Rubincam, or what was afterward known as the John Strong farm, in Horsham, about 2 miles southwest of his old home. After residing thereon three years, in 1797, he sold the property to Andrew Fetter. During this period the two elder children of John and Rebecca Simpson were born—Mary, Aug. 11th, 1794 and Samuel, Oct. 4th, 1796; both lived long, useful and highly honored lives.

After disposing of that farm he then went down to Whitemarsh township, and during the next three years, 1797-98-99, we find he was listed among the taxables of that township as "a farmer, having 3 horses and 3 cows," but there does not appear to have been any real estate assessed for taxes in his name, from which we may infer that he was probably a tenant farmer.

It was most certainly on that farm in Whitemarsh that Hannah Simpson, third child of John, Jr., and Rebecca, and future mother of Gen. Grant, was born, Nov. 23d, 1798.

This fact was not known until I discovered it in the record of marriages and baptisms of Neshaminy Presbyterian Church, which are preserved in the library of our State Historical Society. The names of Mary and Samuel Simpson, the elder brother and sister, appear first, and then the record affirms that Hannah "was born in Whitemarsh, Nov. 23d, 1798 and was baptized Feb. 12th, 1799," by Rev. Nathaniel Irwin.

Subsequent research among county records confirmed the foregoing statements concerning John Simpson's residence in Whitemarsh township in 1797-98-99. That unexpected discovery will doubtless shatter some fondly cherished beliefs and spoil more time honored traditions but we dare not ignore such unquestionable authority.

In 1800 John Simpson, Jr., with his family, evidently returned to Horsham Township, where, for some years afterward, we find that he continued to be assessed for horses and cattle, but no real estate is mentioned on the assessor's list. It is not certain, however, whether he rented another farm, or came back to his father's homestead from Whitemarsh—as John Simpson, Sr., was also found on the list of taxables assessed for "155 acres, 2 horses and 4 cows."

That may sound like a small number of horses and cattle for a farm of that size but we should remember that much of the land, even at that date, was still covered with forest; that the area of woodland largely exceeded the acreage of land cleared and broken for tillage. Moreover, the timber crop was often a more dependable source of income than the crops of the field.

Sarah, fourth child of John and Rebecca Simpson, was born March 28th, 1801, either in that or the following year, (but the date hasn't been found on record), Rebecca Weir Simpson passed away in death, from her precious family circle, leaving four little children of tender age.

Different members of the family have told me that she was buried at Neshaminy cemetery, but the date of her death is not positively known; and by some strange oversight the location of her grave seems to be unknown and unmarked. Aunt Margaret Kenderdine, one of Horsham's oldest residents, told me, in 1887, that her grandmother—Dorothy Roberts Kenderdine—was a sister of Hannah Roberts Simpson, and that she had always understood from her folks that Rebecca Simpson had died quite suddenly.

In importunate need of a helpmate to take charge of his household and care for his motherless children, John Simpson, Jr., chose for his second wife, Miss Sarah Hare, born Aug. 31st, 1773. She was the daughter of Benjamin Hare "who lived along the Schuylkill river near Philadelphia."

She became a true mother to his young children and fulfilled her noble mission in the fullest sense of the word. The only child of the second marriage was a daughter, Anne, born Dec. 7th, 1805.

From the paymaster's account book of the 56th Penna. Regiment of Militia, accidentally found among my grandfather's books and papers, we learn that in 1805-06, John Simpson, Jr., was a Captain in that military organization, his autograph is written on its pages and his name as well as those of Captains Peter and Edward Hoxworth, of Montgomery township; Major Isaac Mann,¹ of Horsham; Nathaniel Boileau, of Moreland, and others are frequently mentioned in connection with its affairs. Reading history backward we may there behold the ancestors of Generals Grant and Hancock, enrolled together for national defense in the very beginning of the century.

A year or two after his father's death in 1804, Capt. John Simpson purchased the old homestead from the administrators, final release being granted in April, 1806, by his brothers-in-law Benjamin Hough and Jonathan Smith. From that date he came back to his old home and continued to live there until the final sale in 1817. John and Sarah Simpson reared their children in the plain and simple old fashioned way. They were trained to frugal habits, and skilled in all the various domestic arts and handicrafts in vogue on the farm, or in the field and household, in the early years of the last century.

1. Mr. Chas. S. Mann, supplies the following information in regard to his Revolutionary ancestry.—“Samuel Man, or Mann, was my great grandfather. He was a county commissioner in 1811, and County Treasurer of Montgomery County in 1815. I now own and reside on the old homestead purchased by his father—the Scotch-Irish immigrant of 1748—in 1752. The eastern half of our house was built in 1754, and it has a most interesting history. Samuel Mann was enrolled in Captain Marple's Company. Capt. Marple was his near neighbor. Samuel McNair, who was enrolled in the same Company, was the brother-in-law of Samuel Mann; and Captain John Mann of the Upper Dublin Company, was their older brother. He became a County Commissioner in 1790; a member of the Penna. Legislature of 1803-1820; a State Senator between 1824 and 1829, and the successor of John B. Sterigere, Esq., in Congress, during 1831-1835.

Samuel Mann married Margaret, daughter of William Keith, who was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and at whose home in Upper Makefield township, General Washington made his headquarters before the Battle of Trenton. That William Keith, however, was no relation to Penn's deputy governor, Sir. William Keith, of Graeme Park. My grandfather, Major Isaac Mann, who served in the Penna. Militia during the War of 1812—married the daughter of Captain John Houston, of Chestnut Hill—Hannah Houston; her father, also served in the Revolution, and in the State Legislature of Penna., as well. Editor.

The axe, the plow, hoe, scythe and flail—had to be plied with industry out of doors. While indoors the spinning wheels and knitting needles were steadily employed in providing family apparel. There was wool to be combed and carded; flax to break and spin when “home made” and “home spun” products were literally truthful terms.

The Simpson girls and their brother gained their schooling over at the little stone schoolhouse on the Warrington side of the county line, close to the green meadows and shady groves of the Little Neshaminy. We can readily imagine how they went fishing along its banks; gathered daisies and buttercups in the meadows, or hunted shellbarks and butternuts in the woods. Thus with a wholesome mixture of toil and pleasure the years rolled by, till the five Simpson children came to womanhood's and manhood's estate, sturdy, healthful and comely. “Pretty Polly Simpson and her handsome sister, Hannah,” did not lack for friends and admirers. The family circle of acquaintance and the social environment embraced their neighbors, friends, schoolmates and the membership of Neshaminy Church, which really included most of their kindred and friends; the Weirs, McKinstry's, Houghs, Hares, Griffiths, Medorys, Longs, Manns, Thomases, Ross and others.

So long as they resided in the community, the Simpson family was identified with the historic old Neshaminy Church, and its influence on their life and thought cannot be overestimated.

The old church of the “Log College,” which through its alumni radiated a spirit of piety and patriotism throughout the land from New Jersey to Carolina, before the Revolution, and has ever since remained a nursery of righteousness and enlightenment. Through summer's heat and winter's cold they rode six miles to meetings for public worship; and through a period of more than sixty years it was the place of sepulchre where they finally laid their kindred to rest under its whispering pines, and in the soil they loved and honored.

Their first pastor was Rev. Nathaniel Irwin who was born at Fagg's Manor, Londonderry township, Chester Co., Penna., in 1746. He had been a classmate of James Madison. He was

called to his first charge at Neshaminy in 1774, and continued to bestow the bread of life to his faithful flock for nearly 40 years, and died in the service in 1812, universally mourned and respected. Their second pastor was Rev. Robert Belville, born at New Castle, Delaware, in 1790, of Huguenot parents. He was a worthy successor of Mr. Irwin and ministered to his charge for more than 25 years.

I was indeed surprised to learn of the veneration and affectionate regard in which these most worthy servants of the Divine Master were enshrined in the hearts of John Simpson's grandchildren, in Ohio, long after their old pastor's death.

Mary, the eldest daughter of John Simpson, Jr., born as previously stated, in 1794, was married to James, son of Thomas Griffith, of Warrington, Jan. 29th, 1812, by Rev. Nathaniel Irwin. James Griffith was of Welsh descent and a blacksmith by trade. He went to housekeeping in a part of the old home and started in business, on his own account, in a shop built beside the Butler road, on the Simpson Farm.

In the spring of 1817, James Griffith decided to go west and better his fortune. Accompanied by his wife and child, Thomas J., born May 7, 1815, and by his brother-in-law, Jonathan Vandye, who was married to his oldest sister, Rebecca Griffith, they bade farewell to kith and kin and went to Ohio.

Arriving in the Buckeye State they carefully looked the country over and concluded to settle in the little village of Bethel, Clermont county, then surrounded by virgin forests. There each made a home for life, and followed their respective trades of cabinetmaking and blacksmithing, with marked success. Less than a year afterward the glowing reports sent back east from the new land of promise inoculated other members of the Simpson family with the contagious "Ohio fever." In the autumn of 1817, Captain John Simpson, looking forward to a change of location sold the homestead to John Myers, and the old home, which had sheltered three generations of the family, then passed out of their name and possession entirely. Many times in the last century the title to the property passed to new hands. It was divided and sub-divided, and by these later changes of ownership, the original Simpson tract was held and

occupied for various lengths of time, by Langstraw, Longstreth, Duddy, Stocker and other families.

After moving his household goods and his family to a house at Harp's Corner, Warrington, Capt. John Simpson started on a visit to his daughter and son-in-law, James and Mary Griffith, down in Ohio, intending to purchase land if he found the country satisfactory. A sojourn of several months with his children in Clermont Co., enabled him to study the resources and opportunities of the country and he soon became so favorably impressed with the bright prospects it offered, that he bought a fine tract of 600 acres at \$6.00 per acre. Then he came back home to Penna., and made preparations to move west with his family.

Finally ready with an outfit to transport them over the long journey, Captain John Simpson and family took leave of their aged mother and the numerous friends and relatives on either side of the County line, literally "served home ties" and started down the old Butler road, one day in the autumn of 1818, on the overland route by wagon to the new state that stamped her seal with the rising sun.

Samuel Simpson has often repeated to his children the story of the incidents and mishaps that they experienced on that long and tedious overland journey of four hundred and fifty miles to the Ohio river, which consumed five weeks and three days; during all of this time they cooked by camp fires and slept in the old style white topped canvas covered Conestoga wagons.

Following the old Lancaster road, the great inland highway of that day, they passed through Lancaster, on to Columbia, where they crossed the broad Susquehanna over the long bridge built in 1814, and proceeded forward to Chambersburg, through the beautiful and historic Cumberland Valley, and over the trails followed by thousands of emigrant wagon-trains, to the west and southwest before the construction of railroads.

Slowly wending their way to Bedford and over the easiest grades of the Alleghenies and other parallel ridges, they turned off into the famous old route into the grassy glades of the Alleghenies in old Somerset county, then to Brownsville, or "Old Fort Redstone," on the Monongahela where they crossed the

river and followed the course which soon afterward became the historic "old National Road" leading through Washington, Pennsylvania, to Wheeling, on the Virginia side of the Ohio river.

There they embarked with goods and chattels on a great "flatboat" and leisurely floated down with the current of the mighty stream for two hundred miles, amid strange and beautiful scenes, till they arrived at Point Pleasant, Clermont Co., they landed on Ohio ground, where we leave them.

	quantity, in pipes, and other articles. Nov. 29.	dif
328,	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Sixteen Dollars Reward,</h2>	(ma Vin slave with ene, they flow pres in la Affe P GR
ef.	<p>RAN away from the Subscriber, 1st instant, a servant man, named Anthony, a black fellow, very much marked with the small pox, rather tall and slender—Has had his left leg broke, which is remarkably crooked, and by which he may certainly be known—said fellow has made an elopement before, and passed for a freeman, by the name of Jack Willis; he is well acquainted in the States of Pennsylvania, Jersey, and New-York—is very artful, will change his name and cloaths, and pass for a freeman, 'tis likely he will procure a pass, as I bought him a slave for life and agreed to have manumitted him after a certain term, no person can object to apprehending him—the above reward will be given for securing him in jail and giving notice thereof to the subscriber—all persons are forewarned from harbouring, concealing, or conveying off said fellow.</p>	At n
ster,	<p style="text-align: right;">8th January, 1792, Kent County, Maryland.</p>	d6t
elled	<p style="text-align: right;">THOMAS M'CLUER.</p>	400 stand of British Arms.

ANCIENT EXAMPLES OF "SEARCH AND SEIZURE" DAYS

OLD TIME ADVERTISEMENTS

By Edward W. Hocker

Many of these old-time advertisements are indicative of the different social conditions that prevailed at the time they were published. The following, for instance, from the Pennsylvania Evening Post of February 15, 1776, suggests the times when an apprentice was little better than a slave.

"THREE DOLLARS REWARD—Ran away, on the 28th day of January, 1776, from the subscriber, living in Abington Township, Philadelphia County, an apprentice lad, bound by the name of Robert Means, but says his name is Alason, of a slender make, about 19 years of age, near five feet six inches high, and whitish hair. He had on and took with him one home-made light-colored country Coatee, lined with striped linsey, an upper jacket, a pair of buckskin breeches, two home-made shirts, two good pair of yarn hose of a dark mixed color, one pair of strong shoes and a small rimmed hat made in Germantown. Whoever takes up the said apprentice and secures him in any jail, so that his master gets him again, shall have the above reward and reasonable charges.

JACOB PAUL.

P. S.—He has been seen at the Barracks, and it is likely he is in or near the city."

Servants, like apprentices, in those days were not permitted to come and go as they pleased, as this advertisement shows:

"FOUR POUNDS REWARD—Ran away from the subscriber, living in the Township of Gwynedd and County of Montgomery, on the 31st day of October, 1789, an Irish servant man, named James Duffy, about 22 years of age, five feet, four or five inches high, lusty bodied, round shouldered, sandy hair and complexion, gray eyes, has them generally half shut, speaks fast and much in his own dia-

lect. He had on and took with him a new brown coat, with carved silver-washed buttons, a blue waistcoat, with large buttons; a new round wool hat with silk loops; a light cloth jacket with sleeves and large buttons; striped tow trousers; blue woolen stockings, lately footed; strong shoes, half worn, with yellow metal buckles; a pair of old buckskin breeches and five new shirts. Whoever takes up the said servant and brings him to me, or secures him in Montgomery County goal shall be entitled to the above reward.

GEORGE SHEIVE."

About the same time the following appeared.

"Norristown, Montgomery County,

Oct. 7, 1789.

Was committed to the goal of the said county a certain George Sharp, who says he is a servant to Patrick Storey, in Sussex County, State of New Jersey. His master is desired to take him away in three weeks from this date, or he will be sold for his fees.

WILLIAM STROUD, Goaler."

An advertisement announcing the sale of land at Graeme Park, in 1782, bears the signature of Elizabeth Furgeson and recalls the story of romance and tragedy connected with Graeme Park.

This estate was the seat of Governor Keith early in the eighteenth century. The mansion which he occupied and where he entertained lavishly still stands, in Horsham Township, near Hatboro, though its glory has departed. Keith died poor and neglected. At the time of the Revolution his granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Furgeson, owned Graeme Park. She was a brilliant woman, but met with misfortune through her attempts to open the way for peace negotiations between the British and General Washington. Because of these attempts she was looked upon as a Tory, if not a traitor. The advertisement is interesting because of its description of the surroundings of Graeme Park. It reads thus:

"For sale, at Graeme Park, two tracts of land adjoining each other, situated in the County of Philadelphia, in the Township of Horsham, nineteen miles from the city, the

greater part of that highly improved farm known by the name of Graeme Park, formerly the property of Dr. Graeme, [Governor Keith's son-in-law] dec'd, and by him devised to his daughter, the subscriber, in whom the title is also vested by an act of the honorable, the Legislature of this State.

"Tract No. 1 contains 160 acres of excellent land, on which are seventy-five acres of the best timber and twenty acres of improved meadow. This land has been highly manured and has produced upwards of twenty bushels of wheat per acre. It is four miles from Neshaminy Meeting House and three from Horsham.

"No. 2 contains about 200 acres of good land, fifty-five acres of which are also of the best timber and fifteen acres more may be had if required.

"As an inducement for any person to purchase both tracts, the use of a large farm house and an excellent barn adjoining the premises for one year, rent free, shall be allowed the purchaser, in which time he may erect proper buildings on the purchase, to suit his own convenience; but this privilege cannot be allowed to the purchaser of either tract separately.

"For terms of sale apply to Doctor William Smith, George Meade, Ashton Humphreys or the subscriber on the premises.

ELIZABETH FURGESON,

Graeme Park, November 25, 1782."

As Montgomery County was not created until 1784, Abington and Graeme Park are described in the foregoing advertisements as being situated in Philadelphia County.

In those good old days of the eighteenth century it used to be the custom for individuals who felt themselves aggrieved by tales which were spread through the community to rush into print to defend themselves. Two advertisements of this kind which Christian Dull inserted in the papers appear in Mr. Detwiler's collection. Christian Dull was the proprietor of the Springhouse tavern, on the Bethlehem pike.

On February 11, 1783, Dull advertised as follows in the Independent Gazetteer, of Philadelphia:

"Whereas, some evil person has propagated a report very injurious and hurtful to my character, I hereby challenge such to appear in an open, bold manner, and meet me on the ground of justice, and dare them to impeach me with any act unbecoming a gentleman and an honest man, which character I have ever held dear; and I further offer a reward of 100 guineas to any person or persons who will prove the author of a report that I was privy to robbing a collector, a circumstance I totally deny, whether with respect to collectors or any other person or persons; and now charge the author or authors of such scandalous report to be lying calumniators and determined to prosecute any person who may in future endeavor to circulate such report to my disadvantage."

CHRISTIAN DULL."

Six years later, on April 1, 1789, Dull advertised as follows in the Pennsylvania Gazette:

"ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS REWARD—Whereas, a false and wicked report has been contrived and for some weeks past spread through the city of Philadelphia and several of the counties, charging the subscriber and his wife, who keeps the Springhouse tavern, in Montgomery County, with the murder, etc., of one or more travelers, in order to get their property, conceiving it to be my duty which I owe to the community of which I am a member, to my relatives, friends and neighbors,—and particularly to a tender wife and seven children (several of them young and helpness) whose welfare or misery in life greatly depends upon the character which I have and shall leave after me, to endeavor to bring to light such dark and horrible Assassins of characters, I do hereby offer a reward of One Hundred Guineas, to any person who shall discover to me any legal evidence of the contriver of said charges or of the author or authors of the report, and of one Half Johannes for any certain information whereby such discovery may be made.

CHRISTIAN DULL."

Before the establishment of police and the invention of telegraphy, it was the custom to advertise robberies in the newspapers, with the hope that readers might catch the robbers and restore the stolen goods. A number of such advertisements are copied in Mr. Detwiler's collection.

In the Pennsylvania Gazette of October 15, 1788, John Shoemaker advertised a list of articles of wearing apparel stolen from his house in Cheltenham, and adds the following postscript:

"The person suspected to have committed the above robbery is a wheelbarrow man, as he left an old wool hat, a blue and drab colored jacket, a pair of trousers with one leg made of striped ticking, the other of brown linnen, and a new brown linnen frock."

In the Pennsylvania Packet of December 10, 1778, Hugh Evens, of Montgomery Township, in what is now Montgomery County, but was then Philadelphia County, advertised a robbery at his house at which some clothing and a "china-faced watch, with a flowered case and steel chain" were stolen. The advertisement continues:

"The said articles were stolen by a fellow who says he is an English deserter, and was employed by the subscriber as a journeyman shoemaker about four days before. He says his name is William Newton, but it is very likely he may change it."

In the language of the Philadelphia Record's headline writer, robbers "made a good haul" in Horsham Township, one night in 1789, as the following advertisement in the Pennsylvania Gazette on September 28, 1789, indicates:

"A robbery was committed at the house of the subscriber in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, by five armed men, on the night of the 23d inst., and the following articles taken: A silver watch with a china face, maker's name, R. Lenox, London, number 7060; about 60 pounds in money, two silk gowns, one red and blue mantua, the other light persian two surtout coats of an olive color, with mohair buttons, one jean coat and vest, two pair of queen's cord breeches, one jean ditto, one cottonade coat of a dove color,

a striped Bengal vest, three pair light gray worsted stockings, six pair of carved shoe and knee buckles, six small silver teaspoons marked "R. I." one double blue and white coverlid, two blankets, nine shirt patterns, nine yards full'd linsey, marked "R. I." in large cypher letters; three pairs men's shoes, two pair of boots, one large; three hats, one small, bound with velvet, with a number of other articles; likewise a large bay horse, a natural trotter, with his mane hanging the near side, a star, snip and one white hind foot, a new saddle, with red and white striped cloth, faced with red, a curb bridle. Whoever secures said robbers, so that they may be brought to justice, and the goods recovered shall receive Forty Dollars reward, or in proportion for any part.

ROBERT IREDELL."

The following advertisement, appearing in the Pennsylvania Evening Post in May, 1776, gives an insight into the methods of the textile industry of that time:

"The Bleachfield, in Merion Township, Philadelphia County, near John Roberts' Mill, belonging to the United States Company of Philadelphia for Promoting American Manufactures, and Daniel Burrel, is now ready for business. Goods are taken in at the manufactory in Philadelphia, the corner of Market and Ninth streets, and at the Bleachfield, where proper receipts will be given. As the said Daniel Burrel has had long experience in this branch, the public may depend on being well served, and the company hope for a general encouragement in this attempt to bring bleaching to as great perfection in America as in Europe.

The owners of the cloth are desired to mark their names on one end of the piece, and the number of yards on the other. The pieces should be cut as nearly as may be to about twenty-five yards each.

Weavers may have constant employ in the manufactory, or be supplied with looms to put up in their cellars in any part of the city."

A want "ad" of war times reads thus :

"Potts-Town, April 16, 1778

"WANTED FOR THE UNITED STATES—A number of experienced Team Drivers to serve for one year from the time of enlistment, for which they shall receive Ten Pounds per month. If required, one month's pay will be advanced to each and at the expiration of six months, if they produce a certificate of their good behaviour from the Wagon Master General, they shall receive as a bounty and reward for their good conduct a new suit of clothes. Those who are willing to serve their country and enlist as Team Drivers may apply to me in Potts-Town; Colonel Frederick Antes, in Frederick Township, or Peter Evans, Esp., in Montgomery Township.

"Wanted, to hire, a number of good four-horse teams. For terms apply to my office in Potts-Town.

"NOTICE is hereby given to all persons who have concealed or otherwise got into their possession any horses, waggons, carts, gears, tents or other effects belonging to the United States, that they forthwith deliver up the same to me in Potts-Town, or to some of my Assistants. Those who conceal any of the property of the United States after this notice may expect to be prosecuted with the utmost rigor. All persons who know of, or who can discover any such concealed property, are hereby requested to give immediate information thereof, for which essential service to their country they shall be amply rewarded.

JOHN MITCHELL, D.Q.M.G."

ROAD MARKS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

By Fred Perry Powers

Rome was a great city when it was said that all roads led thither. In a pioneer country all roads lead from a central settlement and mark the lines of attack upon the wilderness. In this community all the great roads lead from Philadelphia. They radiate like the sticks of a lady's fan, and as they were pushed further into the forests; as they crossed streams and climbed mountains; or followed the lines of least resistance along the rivers, they connected scattered settlements. Cross roads united them, until the wilds were caught in a network of highways, and they were wild no longer.

The trail made by the stealthy moccasin was beaten by the heavy shoe of the settler; widened till the beast of burden could traverse it; smoothed until the heavy cart could pass over it; and then graded and hardened till the stage coach acquired the name of "flying machine" because it could travel from Philadelphia to New York in two days.

They are full of sentiment—the old roads. They run from ford to ford—later from ferry to ferry. They led to every mill, and when hauling was laborious, mills were many, and the streams were early harnessed to work for man. They are full of sentiment—these lines traced by primitive industry upon the face of the earth. They are full of history—these roads over which the Continental army marched to attack the British, or, too often,—to retreat from their superior numbers and equipment.

The most picturesque of the roadmarks are the bridges. There is a bridge a few rods from the Spring-House tavern which has succeeded John Humphrey's bridge, the first bridge in this county. A little below St. Thomas' church in White-marsh there is a bridge at the point which I suppose is the place where Anthony Wayne reported to Washington in the evening

of October 4, 1777, that he had stopped the British pursuit after the battle of Germantown.

Three most interesting bridges of this county were built for military purposes, but one of them—Sullivan's—was intended to be permanent. The bridge at Matson's Ford was of floats or pontoons, constructed during the Revolution by Gen. Sullivan. The one at Swede's Ford was of 36 wagons with rails, for want of planks, laid across them. Baron Steuben describes one of these, and Dr. Waldo, an army surgeon, describes the other. They were only intended for the use of the Continental army in marching from Whitemarsh to Gulph Mills. But Sullivan's bridge at the winter cantonment, was designed by Washington as soon as the army reached Valley Forge, or earlier, was intended to be permanent, and a year after it was built Sullivan wrote from Providence of some strengthening of the piers which he thought would enable it to resist the Schuylkill floods. But the bridge was not high enough to permit the ice at a high stage of water to pass under, and it was wrecked in the winter of 1778-9. In December, 1778, Burgoyne's army, being removed from Cambridge to Virginia,—crossed this bridge; and Lieut. Anburey tells us most of what little we know of its appearance. It had five spans, which bore the names of Washington and other generals, and was designed to be a permanent memorial of the famous encampment. It is to be hoped that the project to reproduce it, or to build a memorial bridge where it stood,—will be carried into execution. Late on June 18, 1778, the day the British evacuated Philadelphia, three brigades of Washington's army left Valley Forge over this bridge.

Montgomery county has not the oldest bridge in the country, or in this section of it, except that Montgomery is a part of the original Philadelphia county. A few years ago the Magazine of American History reprinted from a Boston newspaper the claim that the oldest stone bridge in the country was in Ipswich, Mass., which was built in 1764. But the bridge over the Pennepack, in Holmesburg, Philadelphia county, was built in 1697-8. according to a description, with a picture, published in Atkinson's Casket in 1830.

Montgomery county can boast the most beautiful bridge in this part of the country,—the one over the Perkiomen at the point where the Ridge road and the Germantown and Reading road meet. The stately inscription on it records that “This bridge was founded in the year of our Lord 1798 and finished in 1799.” There are older bridges in Montgomery county. A bridge of eight arches—a great construction—carries the Germantown and Reading road over Skippack creek. The date stone in the parapet bears the date, 1792, and the names of the commissioners. The bridge that carries the Ridge road over Plymouth creek bears the date of 1796. The bridge that carries the Germantown and Reading road over the same creek is a little later,—it bears the date 1802, but not on a tablet set in the parapet, as is usual, but cut in the keystone of the arch on the downstream side of the bridge.

There is an interesting bridge over Gulph creek, carrying the Gulph road, and very near the house that was once the Bird-in-hand Tavern. About thirty years ago it was rebuilt, according to a tablet in the parapet, but whether this meant anything more than considerable repairs I do not know. Two or three years ago it was widened on the upstream side, but the old tablet was reset in the new parapet. It recites that the bridge was erected in 1789, “In the second year of the Foederal Union”; in other words, the second year after the convention prepared the Constitution of the United States. Bridges have not yet wholly supplanted fords. The Gulph road crosses Mill creek by a ford, and there are stepping stones for pedestrians. A cross road between the Germantown and Reading road and the Ridge road crosses the Skippack by a ford, supplemented by a plank foot bridge.

Since “The Jolly Post Boy” in Frankford was demolished, Montgomery county has had the oldest inns in this part of the country. That at the Perkiomen bridge—the two-story part as I understand it—goes back to about 1701 or 1702. The earlier year is claimed on the sign, and Governor Pennypacker accepts the evidence of that year or a very little later. The General Wayne, next to the Lower Merion Friends’ Meeting house,

claims a date of 1704.¹ It must have had some other name before Mad Anthony became a national hero, but I have never come across the original. The Spring-House tavern on the Bethlehem road is reputed to go back to 1719. Twenty or twenty-five years ago it was burned and rebuilt, and of course the old house was not so large as the present. But fire does little to these heavy stone walls and I imagine the identity of the house has been preserved.

The New Jersey Gazette, Feb. 18, 1778, contained this item of war news:

"On Saturday last (Feb. 15) a considerable body of British light infantry, accompanied by a body of light horse, made an excursion into the country as high as a place called the Spring-House Tavern, Gwynedd Township, Philadelphia county, about 16 miles from Philadelphia, where they made prisoners of a Major Wright of the Pennsylvania militia and a number of persons in the Civil Department, such as Magistrates, Assessors, Constables, etc., who were pointed out by the Tories inhabiting that neighborhood. The Enemy went in three divisions, a part of them through Germantown, where they broke many windows, seized all the leather, stockings, etc., and returned to Philadelphia on the evening of the same day, after having committed many other acts of licentiousness and cruelty on the persons of those they term Rebels."

Under date of March 29, 1778, Gen. Lacey, of the Pennsylvania militia, wrote to Washington:

"I had the pleasure to be with Gen. McIntosh on the 23d inst., at the Spring-House tavern in Philadelphia county, when the General, several field officers and myself were of the opinion that if the inhabitants who live near the enemy's lines, or between ours and them, on this side of the Schuylkill, were to move back into the country it would be of the utmost utility to the public cause."

Washington replied:

"In answer to your plan of removing all the inhabitants in the vicinity of the enemy's line, with a view of stopping the communication between the city and country, I have to observe that the measure is rather desirable than practicable."

¹This is debatable. Ed.

A couple of miles further up the road to North Wales is a building of which Howard M. Jenkins says:

"It is a tradition that a part of Lacey's men had been posted at the tavern, (now William M. Jenkins's store; then belonging to Jacob Wentz of Worcester) on the turnpike above the meeting house, and that as they were carelessly marching away, with their muskets laid in the baggage wagon for greater ease of movement, a detachment of British surprised and captured them."

This is probably the incident mentioned by Capt. Montresor of the British army in his journal:

"Sunday 26th (April, 1778) The 2 troops of the 17th Dragoons returned and surprised a post of 50 men of the Rebels, at North Wales Meeting House, killed 12, took six prisoners, the rest fled. Brought in two waggons loaded with camp equipage."

On the Skippack road, just east of Centre Square, is the house which was once Abraham Wentz's tavern, built in 1762, and for a long time a place of voting. Unlike all the other houses in the vicinity it is built of brick. In Poulson's Advertiser, April 18, 1808, it is mentioned that resolutions proposing James Ross of Pittsburgh, for Governor, were adopted, "At a large and respectable meeting at the Brick House in Wilpain (Whitpain) township, Montgomery county."

The Seven Stars Hotel which goes back to 1720, is on the Ridge road at Plymouth creek. Happily the sign was there when I took my photograph, but the last time I passed that way the sign was gone. The old signs are very scarce. The name, like most of our tavern signs, was imported from England, and the original, I suppose, is the League and Seven Stars, corrupted in England into the Leg and Seven Stars, and perpetuating the memory of William the Silent and the Union of Utrecht, which combined the seven northern provinces of Holland, and formed the beginning of the Dutch Republic. This, therefore, is a Protestant sign, as the Crossed Keys is a Papal sign, though it was often used about here when there were very few Catholics, and I suppose it was used with little thought of its significance, because it was a familiar sign in England. We may owe the Seven Stars' sign to the Hollanders who were here very early.

The Bird-in-Hand, no longer a public house, was probably passed by Washington's army on its march to Valley Forge; and so was the King of Prussia, whose sign looks as though it might be the original. The house which has been occupied by the Schultz family for more than a century, in Worcester township, a little north of the Skippack road, was the house of Peter and Rosannah Wentz at the time of the Revolution. I have heard it spoken of as a tavern, and therefore introduce it in this connection. Washington occupied it just before the battle of Germantown, and again October 16-20, 1777. There he received the news of the surrender of Burgoyne, sitting on the edge of the bed in order to get the light from the window, while Charles Wilson Peale, sitting on the only chair in the room was painting a miniature of him.

In the wall of this house is a tablet bearing the initials of Peter and Rosannah Wentz, and the date, 1758,—and a German verse which may be translated:

“Jesus, come into my home,
From thence never to depart;
With thy blessed favor come,
And bring peace unto my heart.”

The Black Horse tavern stood, until two or three years ago—at the corner of the Old Lancaster road and the County Line road, on City avenue. There, bills paid by the Provincial Council show that recruits for the Continental army were entertained; and there General Potter had a picket post at the time Cornwallis came out of Philadelphia with 4,000 men on a foraging expedition, Dec. 12, 1777. Potter's headquarters were at “Harriton,” built 1704,¹ and his brigade fought and fell back all the way from the Black Horse to Gulph Mills. The barn of the Black Horse still stands, and “Harriton” remains, but a log house behind “Harriton,” and built about twenty years earlier, has been demolished within a very few years.

The Sorrel Horse tavern stands on the Old Lancaster road near the 13 mile stone. It was a picket post of the Valley Forge encampment, as is shown by the journal of the “Pennsylvania Exiles.” It is now the summer residence of a Philadelphia

¹ Later the home of Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress,—near Bryn Mawr, Pa.

family. The house now usually pointed out as the Sorrel Horse stands further west, and is the building to which the sign of the old tavern was removed after the Revolution.

Milestones are interesting road marks, particularly those that antedate the turnpike companies. All that I have been able to get on this subject I read before the Philadelphia City History Society a year ago. The turnpike charters required the companies to erect milestones. For the earlier stones I have found no official or legal authority. William J. Buck in the History of Montgomery county confessed his inability to find any law or ordinance on the subject. The three earliest series of stones in this vicinity were erected by private enterprise. The earliest stones in Massachusetts and New York were erected by private enterprise, and so I infer that all the stones about here were the result of public spirit.

Our milestones have an interesting parentage. The Mason and Dixon line was marked with a stone at every mile in 1766 and 1767. Immediately afterward milestones blossomed out on every road. I have found one dated 1767, and several of 1768 and 1769. The 10th stone on Gulph road at Mill creek, bears the date 1770. The two latest dates I have found are 1793, at the corner of Church road and the Lime Kiln road, just outside of Philadelphia, and 1799 on a stone in Danboro, Bucks county.

In New England there is a tradition that when Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General he drove over the Old Boston Post-road in a chaise to the wheel of which he had attached a mechanism that recorded the revolutions and at every mile he had a stone set. It is obvious that if the mail carriers knew their distances it would help them to keep up to their schedules. I have made a good deal of effort to find some record of this, but I am obliged to let it go as a tradition. It was in 1763 that Franklin made his tour through New England, and in 1764 the first series of milestones in Pennsylvania was erected. This was done by the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses against Loss by Fire, which Franklin helped to organize. This was on the post road from Morrisville to Philadelphia. Later the same company set up milestones on the road from Philadelphia to the Delaware state line, on the Chester and Wilmington road, which was another section of the Colonial



TENTH MILESTONE, WITH PENN ARMS AND DATE
Located on Old Gulph Road, near Mill Creek, Ardmore, Pa.

Post-road. So that this company, of which Franklin was an original director, marked the whole of that section of the post-road which lay in Pennsylvania.

The 9th stone of the latter section of the road remains. The 7th stone is standing, but I have some doubt about its being an original. I have found no stone of the original series between Philadelphia and Morrisville, with one probable exception. It was the 4th stone I believe from its location, but bears no marks that I can make out. It stood on an abandoned section of the old Front Street road, and I believe it is now in the office of the Philadelphia Contributionship.

The 4th stone on the Point-no-point road, now, Richmond street in Philadelphia is standing, and the interest attached to it is that Alexander Hamilton and the other second in the affair of honor indicate by it the spot where Col. John Laurens and Gen. Charles Lee fought a duel.

The 7th stone of the Old York road is the only stone of the old series I have found below the 23d in Bucks county. This stone is interesting because it is one of the landmarks mentioned in the orders of Washington for the attack on Germantown, as a guide to the route to be taken by the New Jersey and Maryland militia.

On the Skippack road is the 15th milestone, dated 1768, interesting because Washington dated a letter to Gen. Forman from it. Six miles further west is the 21st stone by which Thomas Paine,—in a letter to Franklin—indicated the camp of the Continental army, from which the march to the attack on Germantown began.

The 27th stone on the same road had fallen over, and was reset a couple of years ago by John Seitz, owner of the abutting farm, and this is one of the rare cases where any effort has been made to preserve a milestone, except by some historical association.

I have somewhere read that the 34th stone on the Skippack road bears the date of 1773. I found a 34th stone with the date 1771, and at the time I supposed I was on the Skippack road, but the road I was on runs west from Zieglersville through Obelisk and the Skippack road is on the north of this.

Just south of Ambler is the 15th milestone on the Bethlehem road, dated 1768. The diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer for 1768 contains this entry:

"Aug. 12—Went up the Wissahickon road [which is the Ridge road] to set up milestones. Dined at Lebarons with Hugh Roberts, Pearson Smith, Edward Milner, John Lukens, surveyor [he was Surveyor General] and—Chambers, stone-cutter. Then we went to Christopher Robin's, and a little beyond his house set up the xiii milestone." It is still standing, and so are some others of that series.

Everybody knows that the stones on the Gulph road bear the Penn arms. It is not so generally known that the stones on the Haverford road also bear them. The arms were on the stones on the Gray's Ferry road. Street making in Philadelphia has uprooted all of these, but the venerable fishing club which bears the name of the State in Schuylkill, and has removed to the Delaware,—has two of these stones.

The Gulph road leaves the Old Lancaster road between the 8th and 9th stones, and the first stone on the Gulph road marks 9 miles from the old market house, Second and Market Streets, Philadelphia. The series is complete from 9 to 18. The 10, 13 and 15 are protected by iron fences. The 10 has the numerals on both faces, so that they can be read from the two roads at the fork between which it is placed. Elsewhere the date—if any—is cut on the face of the stone, but on this stone the figures 1770 are cut on the edge.

Buck says that Mr. C. H. Hill, of Norristown, reset the stones, but the statement requires two corrections. There are no stones beyond the King of Prussia, and of the 13th stone, which stands at the entrance of "Stoke Park," where the Red Rose Inn was located, Mr. Samuel Gordon Smyth, of Conshohocken, says, "About 1897, in the heyday of this famous hospitality, Frederick Phillips, then owner of the park, being deeply interested in Colonial history, caused the renovating of this stone and had it enclosed with a neat painted iron fence." The 15, 16, 17 and 18 stones on the Gulph road are of particular interest. Washington's army passed them on the march from Gulph Mills to Valley Forge. On June 3, 1784 Washington

told Dr. Gordon, first historian of the Revolution, that it was on the march to Valley Forge that the troops could have been traced by their bloody footsteps on the snow.

South of Mainland, on the Sumneytown pike, is the 26th stone with the date 1769.

On the Old Lancaster road I found the 6th stone inside the city limits of Philadelphia. The 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 16 stones are in place. Burgoyne's troops were marched from Valley Forge to the Old Lancaster road, which they reached a dozen miles from Philadelphia, so that they passed the 13th and perhaps the 12th stone. The 16th stone, in the south edge of Strafford, bears the date 1769. It is near the Sentinel Chestnut one branch of which is still able to put forth foliage, which Julius F. Sachse says marks a picket post of the Valley Forge encampment.

There are sacred roadmarks in the old churches of Montgomery county. It is our inestimable advantage to be descended from men and women who built places of worship as soon as they had shelter. They never had occasion to say with David: "See, now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains." But the history of the Lower Merion Friends' Meeting house, the Norriton Presbyterian church and the Augustus Lutheran church, at Trappe, has been too fully written upto leave me anything to say, except to regret that the early records of the Presbyterians are so very fragmentary. The Rev. Charles Collins, historian of the Norriton Presbyterian church, believed that there was a date stone which fell out of the wall and was used in repairing the foundations, but he did not remember whether the figures were 1698 or 1689. If the latter, the church antedates the Lower Merion meeting house, but this imperfect recollection cannot be accepted as evidence.

The Augustus Lutheran church is the only one I know of in this vicinity the interior of which has not been modernized, except St. Peter's in Philadelphia. Not only does Dr. Muhlenberg's church stand, but a house in the eastern end of Trappe is identified as the parsonage built by him, and which was filled all the night of September 19, 1777, when the Continental army

was fording the Schuylkill,—by officers who came in from time to time to dry and warm themselves.

Near Fatland Ford the Wetherill mansion stands on the site of the home of James Vaux, and I am told it incorporates the walls of the dining room in which Washington took supper, and Sir William Howe breakfasted the next morning. As the story is usually told, the order of these meals is reversed. Washington was at Pottsgrove on September 22, but he may also have been at Fatland. Sir William Howe, with the greater portion of his troops, forded the river early on the 23d, and halted near the ford for breakfast. Henry Woodman, in his manuscript history of Valley Forge dates the incident a week earlier, when we know both armies were on the south side of the Schuylkill.

Most stirring to the patriot heart among the roadmarks of Montgomery county are the houses occupied by Washington. The County History, I believe, quarters Washington near Pennypacker's mill, or Pawling's mill, in a house on the west side of the Perkiomen, no longer in existence. Of course Gov. Pennypacker puts no faith in that story. But Washington was twice in the vicinity of that mill, before and after the battle of Germantown. On the former occasion he occupied what is now the home of the Governor. But after the battle a part of the army, at least, camped on the west side of the Perkiomen. Thomas Paine was quartered in a house on the west side of the creek, and he would naturally be near the headquarters. May not both Gov. Pennypacker and the history be right?

Having crossed the Schuylkill, and marched through Trappe, the American army continued to the Perkiomen, and a part of it crossed to the east side, and, according to tradition—Washington occupied what is now known as the D. Morgan Casselberry house. From here the army marched to Pottsgrove, and tradition assigns Washington both to the Potts house in Pottstown, and the house of Colonel Frederick Antes, in Frederick township. One tradition may be wrong, but both of them may be right. Washington was constantly on the move, and he did much of his own scouting. Adjoining the Antes farm is the Bertolet farm, and a venerable member of the Bertolet family told me that his grandfather and his uncle used to tell him of

seeing Washington when he rode over from the Antes farm to drink from the mineral spring on the Bertolet farm.

The next camp ground was at Pennypacker's mill. Previous to the battle of Germantown the army moved from this point to Skippack, or Skippackville, where I know of no house associated with Washington. There is a tradition of his using the Fairview hotel, and if he ever used it, it was at this time, but the distance is considerable, and I do not know any authority for the tradition.

Thence the army marched to the 21st milestone, Washington occupying Peter Wentz's house. After the battle of Germantown Washington was back at Pennypacker's or Pawling's mill, and may have used a house on the west side of the creek. The next camp ground was near the Mennonite meeting house in Kulpsville, and tradition assigns Washington to a house most of which has been demolished, but the kitchen wing of the Abraham Wampold house is said to be a part of the house that Washington occupied.

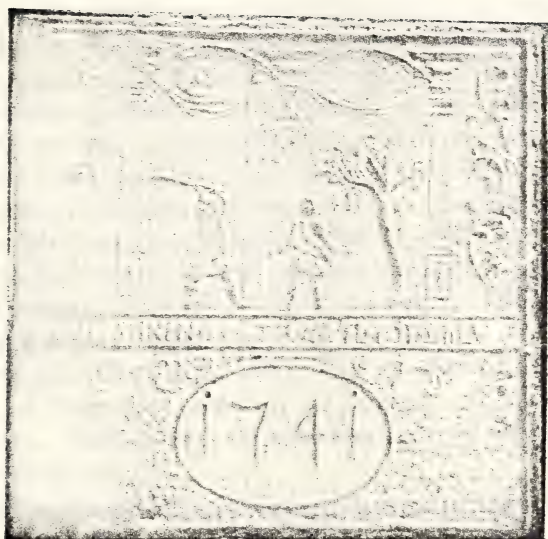
The army moved to Worcester township and Washington again occupied the Wentz house from October 16 to 20. The next move was to Whitpain township, and Washington occupied the fine "Dawesfield" mansion, built in 1736, which has never been out of the possession of the descendants of Abraham and Mary Dawes. But it has always descended on the distaff side, and therefore the name of the occupying family has changed with each generation. Mary Dawes is said to have planted the great buttonwood tree which overhangs the springhouse when she went there as a bride. The springhouse bears the initials of Abraham and Mary and the date 1736. There are preserved some of the articles of furniture that were in the room Washington occupied for the last ten days of October, 1777.

The Emlen house in Whitemarsh, which Washington used from November 1st to December 11th has, within three or four year, been extensively modernized. I am very glad to have seen it, and got my photographs, while it was still a farm house, and except that it had lost its gambrel roof, not much changed from the time of Washington.

The next house occupied by Washington was at Gulph Mills, but it is not certain whether it was the Supplee house, near the mill and the boulder, which is a monument to the encampment, or one that is no longer in existence.

His next headquarters was in many respects the most famous of all. It was the Potts house in Valley Forge. Of that sacred spot, which some residents of Philadelphia have never visited, an English historian, Sir George Otto Trevelyan, says:

"That little village, clustered at the bottom of a deep ravine, gave a name to what, as time goes on, bids fair to be the most celebrated encampment in the world's history. The name of Valley Forge will never cease to be associated with the memory of sufferings quietly and steadfastly borne, but not endured in vain."



Fireplate "ADAM AND EVE"
Courtesy Historical Society of Bucks County.

STOVE PLATES AND TEXTILES OF THE EARLY PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS

By Wm. E. Montague

The early German and Swiss settlers of Pennsylvania left their homes chiefly on account of religious persecution. From the Lower Palatinate, Silesia, Sweden, Holland and Switzerland came the people who became known in the Pennsylvania settlements (made at the beginning of the 18th century) as Lutherans and Moravians; who held the most liberal religious convictions; and the Conservatives, who became known according to the tenets of their faiths as Mennonites, Dunkards, Schwenkfelders and Amish. These people had largely forgotten the decorative arts that had sprung up as the result of the German Renaissance—the Reformation. They were people of abstemious habits; they did not approve of war, holding shares or taking oaths. They had no desire to vote, (in fact, few of them did) and had no interest, and took no part in politics. Suits-at-law, or whatever savored of fighting—they sedulously avoided.

These early Pennsylvania Germans maintained their own language. They were mostly farmers and lived in a democratic way as far as community life went. But their influence was chiefly negative, as they did not openly protest against war, slavery, and other evils of which they strongly disapproved.

Art had waned before the Germans came to American shores. The first faint stirrings of artistic conception found vent in decorative arts applied to household objects, one of the most unusual being the decoration of stove plates, which were used in the early German households, being placed back of the long fireplaces, and heating the part of the house which was literally the living room, as found in the Godschall home in the Haycock Mountains above Doylestown. Their intense religious feeling led them to reproduce Biblical scenes upon their stoves,

so that the latter became known as "the Bible in iron." Time has made the stoves more American and less beautiful. The Pennsylvania German still loves his Bible, but has lost his stoves.

One of the early specimens of decorated stove plates was found about two miles outside of Pottstown. In relief upon the plate is a female figure on the right facing a blacksmith at work on the left. At the foot, midway between the two figures, are two swords crossed, a plowshare and a pruning hook surmounted by a halberd, signifying the passage in the Bible which reads "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." This marks their deep religious sentiment, and the influence of the French and Indian war, which was breaking out in North America at the time. At the bottom of the plate, is the inscription in German:—"I hope that blessed time of peace will soon prevail o'er all the earth." The Thanksgiving Plate shows "Elijah being fed by the ravens"—circling around him. The corners and top of the plate are ornamented with scrolls, often turning themselves into conventionalized flowers, while beneath is the inscription in German, taken from the Songs of Solomon, "O, Give thanks unto the Lord," thus proving the devotion and religious fervor of the sturdy Pennsylvania Germans. The next plate depicts a wedding. The minister stands at the extreme left, while the bride, with a nosegay of flowers, stands a little in front of the groom; her attendants in the background. The whole plate is heavily decorated with flowers, and is one of the few early specimens, whose inscription is non-scriptural.

A curious fact is, that while these decorated stove plates are found in New Jersey and New York in a small area, they are not found in New England. Their production on an extensive scale is confined to Pennsylvania. Another plate depicts the murder of Abel by his brother Cain. The plate is decorated with scroll work, and within the two fluted columns stand the figures of Cain and Abel, whose dress bears a striking resemblance to the Scottish highlanders. Cain uplifts a club and advances on Abel who throws up his palms in an attitude of supplication. Beneath this scene are the words in German "Cain

kills his brother Abel." Under this is the date "1741" in large figures, surrounded by an oval elaborately decorated with scroll work. This was cast by the Durham furnace. Some of the fire plates are part German and part English. The next plate describes the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee with scornful and pompous mien, kneeling before an altar on which burn two candles, while the shrinking Publican kneels in the background. The accompanying German inscription reads, "The proud Pharisee glorifies himself in prayer, while the humble Publican pleases God much better."

A scene of David slaying Goliath with his sling shot, figures in another plate. This plate has the double arched canopies, verticle scrolls and elaborate floral decorations, which characterize with slight modifications nearly all the oldest existing stove plates. This bears the inscription "A Great Goliath hath David overthrown." "The Miracle of Cana" was found at Hamburg, Pennsylvania, 1913. Two figures each with a water jug on the ground before him, stand at the left, typifying the turning of water into wine. Christ is the central figure in the group, and the inscription in German says "Jesus makes our water, wine."

At the Mary-Ann furnace, York County, Pa., three remarkable men, all of whom distinguished themselves in the early life of the young Republic,—made stove plates known as the George Ross plate. These plates are quite Conventional and bear elaborate designs in the heart and tulip pattern. The furnace continued from 1761 to 1765. The three men directly concerned in this enterprise were George Ross, George Stevenson, and William Thompson. George Ross afterwards became Vice President of the Continental Assembly and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1796, and is buried in the grave yard of Christ Church, Philadelphia.

George Stevenson was born in Ireland, 1716, and was one of the most famous lawyers in York County. He taught school at New Castle in 1741; and, in 1761, joined in partnership at the Mary-Ann furnace with Ross and Thompson. In 1765 at the expiration of the contract, Stevenson came to Carlisle, and for

eight or ten years, worked a furnace at Pine Grove, meanwhile attaining much prominence in the study of his profession.

William Thompson, the third member of the firm, married Stevenson's sister; enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and attained the rank of General, and was distinguished for bravery in action.

During the address an exhibit was made by Mr. Montague of the earliest plate cast in Pennsylvania. It is more rectangular than the later plates, being cast in 1725, and bearing the seal of Philadelphia of 1720, showing the clasped hands; the pair of scales; the ship and the wheat shield. The inscription is in German, the English words lacking "When Philadelphia first took, these arms received."

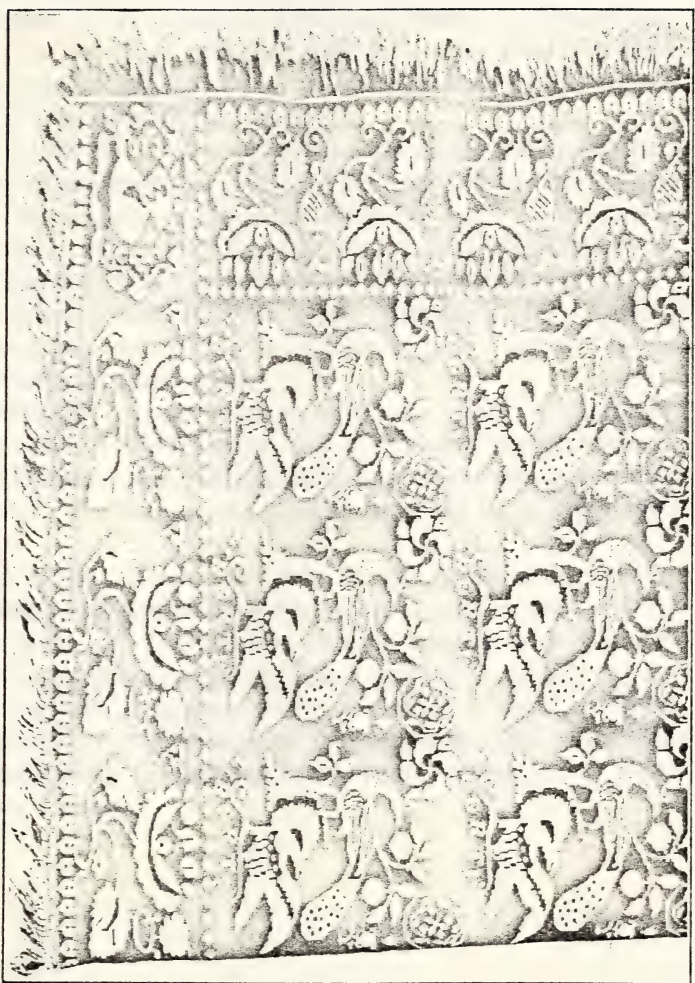
The thoroughly primitive design of the Fox and Goose on a piece of a 10-plate-stove seems to indicate that the religious spirit of the stove makers disappeared after 1760.

The "Dance of Death" is a most interesting theme, dealing with early German art. It depicts a skeleton interrupting a dispute,—brandishing a leg, as a club, over the heads of the quarrelsome pair in the foreground. The dress is that of the 15th century and the scene is evidently taken from a poem of the 14th century known as the Basle Tagdentag. This poem was painted in frescoes about 1320, the first copy being produced in 1568, and later, being recast in iron in 1766 as a piece of decorative art on a stove plate. The German inscription reads "Here fights with me a bitter death, and brings to me death's stress." These frescoes at Basle were destroyed in 1800.

In searching for these old stoves, always look for an old house with a chimney in the middle.

Exhibits from the Godschalk house, Haycock Mountain, pieces of textile art, were next shown, among which was a large William Henry Harrison handkerchief, with the General seated upon a prancing horse in the centre while directly on top is the famous log cabin with the suggestion of hard cider.

A Clay, Frelinghuysen and Markle flag, with 23 stars, representing the number of states in the Union at that time, and bearing the portrait of Henry Clay in the upper left hand corner—was the next exhibit. This has local interest from the fact



PEACOCK PATTERN COVERLET

in the collection of Eliza Calvert Hall, of Bowling Green, Ky.

that the Markle referred to—owned and operated an old paper mill along the Wissahickon creek.

A most interesting piece of chintz with the map of the United States in 1802, before the Louisiana purchase, shows the figures of Washington, Paine and Franklin. The wooden blocks for printing, were evidently cut out by hand. It bears the original number of stars, 13, and the inscription: "Where liberty lives, there is my country."

A dark blue and white quilt, made at Manheim, Pa., by a Pennsylvania German housewife; the wool and flax having been raised on the farm and spun and woven by hand—was followed by a white bedspread of Jacquard weave, depicting Washington on horseback, with the inscription "Washington."

General Washington's great friendship for Anthony Wayne was shown by a gift of a sword-cane from the former to the latter at Paoli, 1786.

Wayne's punch bowl, a handsome piece of decorated Lowestoft—descended from Anthony to Isaac Wayne, thence to Ann Haymen; thence to a descendant of the same name at West Chester. The date of the bowl is supposed to be from 1760-1768.

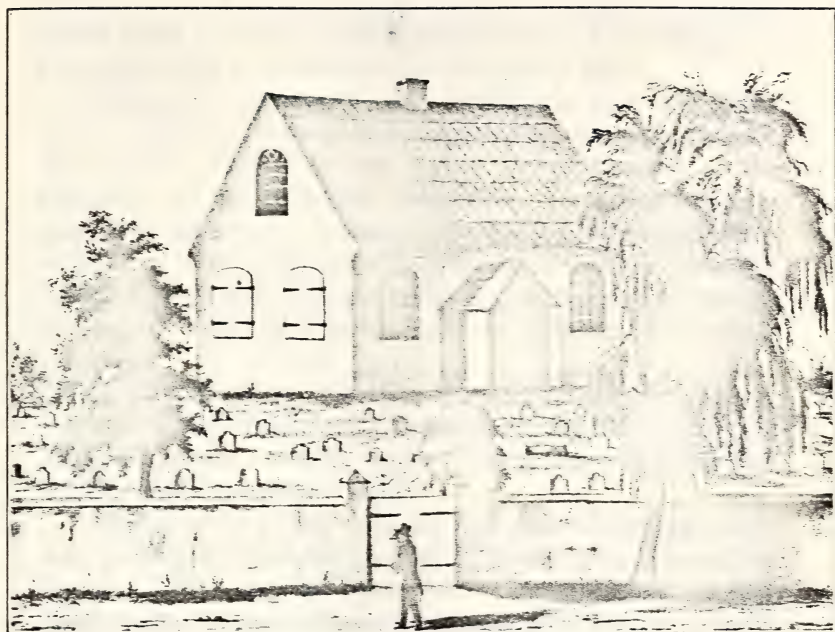
A David Rittenhouse clock, the handwork of the greatest scientist of Pennsylvania—was the last exhibit shown. The clock is the old English type of 1760 and the wheels are file work. It is greatly to be regretted that the David Rittenhouse farm and the workshop where the great scientist made his valuable instruments—are, at present, unmarked. They are situated on the Germantown pike, near Trooper Road, Montgomery County.

ST. JAMES P. E. CHURCH, PERKIOMEN (EVANSBURG)

By Mrs. A. Conrad Jones

On the site marked by this Memorial Stone stood the first church building used by this parish, and one of the earliest churches erected in America. It was erected in 1721, and became known as St. James P. E. Church, Perkiomen. The bronze tablet upon the stone bears a true reproduction of a drawing made of the original church. The Senior Warden of the present church, Mr. D. Morgan Casselberry, is the only known person living who worshiped in this church. His memory is clear as to the exact location of the building, and many interesting details of its construction. Tradition says that a log structure antedated this stone building, and there is a record that as early as 1708 the parish had its inception under the ministrations of Rev. Evan Evans. As his name implies, Rev. Evan Evans was a Welshman, commissioned by the Bishop of London, and sent out by "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," to take charge of Christ Church, Philadelphia, and outlying districts; these included Radnor, Perkiomen, the Great Valley, and other localities. Under his zealous ministrations, early families of this locality united to form this parish. Rev. Rudman, Rev. Griffith Hughes and Rev. Wm. Currie, were rectors who officiated here prior to and during the Revolution. From 1788 to 1821 Rev. Slater Clay had a long rectorship here, and lies buried in this cemetery; a rector of later date, Rev. John Reynolds, also is interred here.

When the new church building opposite was erected in 1843, the stones and timbers of the old church were used in the new, but the only visible evidence of the original structure is the date-stone, which can be seen in the east hall of the tower, with this inscription upon it:—"J. S. and J. P. Churchwardens 1721", the initials referring to James Shannon and James Pawling. A bequest of 42 acres of land made by Wm. Lane 1732,



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PERKIOMEN. Founded 1721.



MORTUARY CHAPEL OF THE RESURRECTION
(Formerly Old Parish School)
St. James' Parish, Perkiomen, Evansburg, Pa.



accrues to the benefit of the parish to this day; the rectory stands upon part of it, and the lower end of the village of Evansburg pays an annual ground-rent to this day.

During the Revolution, and particularly after the Battle of Germantown, the early stone church was used as a hospital. The marker, erected by the Valley Forge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is a fitting honor to those who died here. A stone, with the following inscription, is found in this Cemetery:—"In memory of Captain Vachel D. Howard, of Maryland Light Dragoons, who departed this life March 15, 1778, aged thirty years, in defense of American Liberty."

Tradition tells us that when Washington was President he rode out from Philadelphia, dismounted, and standing by the grave of Captain Howard, said:—"The grave of a brave man, a brave man; I knew him well."

Stones of very early date are well preserved in this Cemetery, and legibly mark the graves of the earliest members of this parish. There also lie buried here representatives of many families that formed the early settlers of this Perkiomen region.

MICHAEL H. REED POSTMASTER OF SKIPPACK 80 YEARS AGO—AN OLD-TIME HATTER

By Dr. W. H. Reed

One of the earlier business enterprises in Skippackville was a hat and furstore, conducted by my father, Michael H. Reed, who located here in 1832. He not only dealt in hats and furs but manufactured hats for sale, and purchased skins of fur bearing animals; these to be used by him in the manufacture of stiff or soft hats, to make which in those days was an essential feature of the hatter's trade. The surplus furs bought by father at this place were shipped to Philadelphia and there disposed of in the regular channels of trade.

Father was born on Oct. 24, 1809, at the home of his grandfather, Lieut. Colonel Jacob Reed, in New Britain Township, Bucks Co., Pa., and landed in Skippackville a young man twenty-three years of age. He came here from Germantown, Pa., where he had been working for nearly a year in a hat establishment or factory owned and operated by a man by the name of Schaffer. Previous to that time he had been working for a man by the name of Henry Shellenberger, at Line Lexington.

With this Henry Shellenberger father learned the trade of hatting; he was "indentured" with this man when but sixteen years of age. Father not only lived with the family of this man until he was of age and completed his apprenticeship, but for a short while afterwards and worked for him as journeyman hatter.

It might be interesting to know what was understood in those early days as "indenturing" a son with a master mechanic or tradesman to learn the art and mysteries of a science or trade in order to become a master or capable successor. Father's old indenture papers are still preserved, and, at this day are interesting, and that its meaning may be better understood, I copy it verbatim:

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There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;

There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;



Certificate of Birth and Baptism.

Michael H. Reed, a Son of
 Andrew Reed, and Wife Mary
 a daughter of Henry Hartman was born on the
 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord
 1864 in the Township New Berlin
 in the County of Bucks in the State of
 Pennsylvania in North America and was baptized
 on the 28th day of January in the year of our
 Lord 1868 by the Rev. George Wack
 His sponsors were Michael Hartman and
 Elizabeth his wife.



There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;

There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;



There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;

There is a great source of life,
 And from it all things come;
 And from it all things live;
 And from it all things grow;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;
 And from it all things are;

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 JOHN R. B. & Co.

ANCIENT BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Of Michael H. Reed. Rev. George Wack, the officiating clergyman,
 was the youth's cousin.

This Indenture Witnesseth that Michael Reed of the
 Township of Buttern and County of Bucks by and with the
 Consent of his Father Andrew Reed Testifies as a
 Witness hereto hath Bound and put himself and by these
 Presents doth bind and Voluntary put himself Apprentice
 To Henry Schellenger Father of the Township of Hatfield
 and County of Montgomery - after the Manner of an Apprentice
 to dwell with and serve the Said Henry Schellenger four
 years from the twenty fourth of October last past untill he
 the Said Michael Reed shall be of the age of twenty one years
~~from~~ and then fully to be complete and ended
 and during all which time the Said Apprentice his Said
 Master faithfully serve and that Obediently and Submissively
 in all things as a dutiful Apprentice ought to do and
 the Said Henry Schellenger shall Teach and instruct or
 cause to be taught and instructed the Said Apprentice in
 the Art Trade and Manners of a Hatter and shall and will
 find and provide for the Said Apprentice Sufficient
 Meat drink and Apparel washing and Lodging during
 the said Term and at the Expiration thereof to deliver
 up his Indenture - For Witsnes whereof the hereby do
 Interchangably set their Hands and Seals this sixth day
 of December one thousand eight hundred and twenty six
 1826

Witness Present
 at Signing -
 Andrew Reed
 Isaac Morris

Michael Reed
 Henry Schellenger

THE OLD INDENTURE PAPER OF MICHAEL REED

The witnesses were the father, Andrew Reed, and the Justice of
 the Peace, Isaac Morris, by whom it was drawn.

"This Indenture Witness that Michael Reed of the Township of Hilltown and the County of Bucks by and with the Consent of his Father, Andrew Reed, Testified by his Signing as a Witness hereunto hath Bound and put himself and by these Presents doth bind and Voluntarily put himself Apprenticed to Henry Shellenberger, Hatter, of the Township of Hatfield and the County of Montgomery, after the Manner of the Appointed to dwell with and serve the Said Henry Shellenberger four years from the twenty-fourth day of October last past until he the Said Michael Reed Shall be of the age of Twenty-one years and then fully to be complete and ended, and during all of which time the Said Apprentice his Said Master faithfully serve and that Honestly and Obediently in all things as a dutiful Apprentice Ought to do and the Said Henry Shellenberger Shall Teach and Instruct or Cause to be Taught and Instructed the Said Apprentice in the Art, Trade and Mastery of a Hatter and Shall and will find and provide for the Said Apprentice Meat, Drink, and Apparel, Washing and Lodging during the Said Term, and at the Expiration of thereof to Deliver up this Indenture. In Witness Whereof they hereby do Interchangably Set their Hands and Seals this Sixth day of December one thousand eight Hundred and twenty Six (1826). Michael Reed, (seal), Henry Shellenberger, (seal). Witness Present at Signing, Andrew Reed, Isaac Morris."

Father complied with the requirements of the agreement to the best of his ability as a young man learning a trade. He must have won, through good habits and ability, the approval and admiration of his master, for at the end or completion of his apprenticeship his employer clothed him snugly with a nice suit of new clothes and gave him a small sum of money. After father became of more mature years and as his mind would revert to his life as an apprentice under Shellenberger, he would smile exultingly and chuckle over the modest "send off" his early employer gave him at the expiration of the contract as apprentice. His employer and family were good, true and conscientious christians, and father's administrations in this respect did not suffer even if some other parts of the contract fell short as to its intent, meaning and understanding.

Father's entry into Skippackville I think was largely due to his cousin, Abraham Everhart's persuasion, who at that time was hotelkeeper at the upper hotel in the village. Abraham Everhart's advent into the village was some years before, he being in a position from knowledge and acquaintance to give father good advice as to the advantages of the place for a hat and fur store, and without a doubt Everhart's influence did much to direct him here to this place. His manner referring to this place in after years leads me to believe this.

Father was very methodical in his ways, and he kept a book of his business affairs. It shows he was careful and exact in the transaction of his business. The more important features of his business apparently were only recorded in this book. On its title page I find this entry:

"Michael H. Reed, June 2, 1832" By this and succeeding entries this was the date of opening his first account with his many patrons. Further on I find this record: "Michael H. Reed commenced boarding with Abraham Everhart on the 10th day of May, 1832." Beyond a doubt this was the day and date of his debut as a permanent resident and business man of Skippackville.

This book gives the names of many of his patrons, especially the credit customers. A copied list of these at this time may be interesting, as it gives the names of many of the residents of the village and surrounding community at that time. Some of these names are relatives and are familiar to me and resided not nearer than ten to fifteen miles from here. Their patronage may have been due to relationship or friendship and as kinsmen and acquaintances desired to assist the young man in this his first business venture. I copy the names as they appear in rotation on the book. He made an effort to enter them alphabetically, and as the pages filled, could not do so later on according to this early arrangement in his book. Where there is a duplicity or multiplicity of one name I record it but once:

Jesse Enghard, Abraham Everhart, Philip Enghard, Charles Everhart, William Ellinger, George Yost, Matthias Yost, David Thomas, Andrew Tyson, James High, James Hamer, Abraham Harmer, Jacob Hoover, Benjamin Hendricks, Jonas

Hildebeidle, Store Keeper; Henry Hendricks, Carpenter; Isaac Hunsicker, Joseph Heckler, John Detwiler, George Delp Weaver; Samuel Daub, Isaac Delp, Farmer; George Detwiler, Shoemaker; James Preston, Doctor Palmer, John Landis, Henry Ledrock, old; Henry Loch, Samuel Leister, Henry Myers, Tailor; Reuben Moyer, George Mach, Christian Fryer, Henry Fox, William Frank, Hostler; William Fitzwater, George Fry; Jacob Fitzcharles, Jonas Fisher, Daniel Fitzcharles, ——— Favinger, Isaac Shoemaker, John Snider, George Smith, Jacob Shoemaker, John Snider, Storekeeper; Isaac Sheattle, at Squire Reiff's; John Sell, Frederick Singmaster, ——— Sheattle, at Heckler's; ——— Spear, Isaacher Smith, Henry Reiff, George Reiff, by Ziegler's tanyard; Michael Reiff, Philip Reed, Jr., Samuel Rogers, Michael Longacre, at Henry Reiff's; Jacob Keysr, Jacob Kister, Joseph Keelor, Henry Kratz, at Detwiler's John Kratz, Samuel Kooker, George Garner, David Godshalk, Jacob Allebaugh, John Adamson, Blacksmith; Joseph Johnson, John Johnson, Martin Wisler, William Wentz, Joseph Williams, Isaac Winters, John Bean, Abraham Beyer, Allen Buchhammer, ——— Boorse, Carpenter; Jonathan Zane, Abraham Ziegler, farmer; Michael Ziegler, at Reiff's Mill, Abraham Cassel.

We earlier learned when father first came to Skippackville he boarded with Abraham Everhart, and that father and Abraham Everhart were cousins. At this time Everhart was hotel-keeper at the upper hotel in Skippackville, and I was led to believe it was this cousin who led father to open business here. Skippackville at this time was a live inland village, centrally located on a much traveled thoroughfare, offered opportunities for a business of this character, that made it inviting to father; and, Abraham Everhart being a popular business man and well known to the community at large, made father's business venture doubly interesting and inviting.

Abraham Everhart had a very interesting family. One of his sons, Charles W. Everhart, subsequently became a prominent physician, practicing his profession for a while in Skippackville and then in Sellersville, Bucks county; Jesse Everhart, another son, became an eminent dentist in Philadelphia. Father and they were very close as friends. I often remember him

mentioning these as such and had naught but praise for them.

So long as Abraham Everhart was hotelkeeper at Skip-packville, father boarded with the family; possibly this association and these children and father near of an age and mind, drew them closer together in relationship and friendship. Father in those days sported his team and being a young man with them delighted in their company and in such shared their companionship, "going to see the girls."

In father's book I find this entry: "October 4, 1832, I settled with Abraham Everhart." This means that his board was paid up to this date. It appears about this date Abraham Everhart disposed of his hotel property and business interests to Jacob Croll. Beneath the above record follows this one: "Michael H. Reed commenced boarding with Jacob Croll, Oct. 5, 1832." The book further shows that father continued boarding with Jacob Croll until he sold out the hatting business in 1834, only to remove and engage in a similar business in Philadelphia.

On father's arrival in Skippackville, Abraham Everhart was postmaster. Upon Abraham Everhart's disposal of his hotel and interests to Jacob Croll, in the fall of 1832, father was made postmaster, and continued as such until his removal from Skip-packville in 1834.

A line of stage coaches at this time ran from Kutztown, Berks Co., to Philadelphia, Pa., that carried the mail to and from Skippack. The cross country mails were carried by post riders. The arrival and departure of the stage always created no little stir and excitement among the people in this busy and live inland village.

The certificate of father's appointment as postmaster under President Andrew Jackson, in 1833, I still have and prize it highly. For that period of our country's history it was quite an attractive document and reads thus:

WILLIAM T. BARRY,
Postmaster General of the United States of America,



TO ALL WHO SHALL HERE PRESENT, GREETING:

Know Ye, That in virtue of the authority, ability and competency of Michael H. Reed,
I do appoint him a Postmaster and authorize him to execute the duties of that office at Skippack, in the County
of Montgomery, State of Pennsylvania,
according to the laws of the United States and the regulations of the Postmaster General. To hold the said office of Postmaster
with all the honors, privileges and emoluments to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United
States for the time being.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of this Department to
be affixed, at Washington City, the twenty-sixth day of October,
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the fifty ~~second~~ anniversary.

OFFICE OF APPOINTMENTS:

Approved the 2nd day of November, 1832 }

Wm. Allen

W. T. Barry

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

Of Michael H. Reed as Postmaster at Skippack. It is endorsed by Postmaster General William T. Barry

WILLIAM T. BARRY

Postmaster General of the United States of America,
E. Pluribus Unum
(Coat of arms of the U. S.)

To all who shall see these presents, Greetings:

KNOW YE, That Confiding in the Integrity, Ability and Punctuality of Michael H. Reed, Esq., I do appoint him a Postmaster, and authorize him to execute the duties of that office at Skippack in the County of Montgomery, in the State of Pennsylvania, according to the Laws of the United States, and the regulations of the Postmaster General; TO HOLD the said office of Postmaster, with all of the powers, privileges, and emoluments, to the same belonging, during the pleasure of the Postmaster General of the United States for the time being.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this Department to be affixed, at Washington City, the twenty sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the Fifty-seventh.

(Signed) W. T. Barry

Office of Appointments:—

Registered the 23d day of November, 1832.

(Signature) Geo. Plitt.

The certificate of appointment is a rather large document of its character and importance, and in those days when post-offices were not as numerous, as now, received the written signature of the Postmaster General of the United States. How differently were such public affairs conducted in those days in comparison with today? I remember father discussing the postal affairs then with now, what trouble it gave him fixing the proper and correct rates of postage to various points of destination on a letter. In other words there was not then a uniform rate of postage to all parts of the United States as now, and

postmasters had to govern themselves in charges by miles and points of destination.

The postmasters were provided by the Post Office Department with a list of post offices all over the country, with distances, etc. From Skippackville to Washington, D. C., was given as 160 miles; Philadelphia 24 miles, Harrisburg 99 miles, Norristown 8 miles, etc.

When father took the office and became Abraham Everhart's successor he experienced trouble about fixing up the postal affairs of his predecessor as to a correct settlement. The Post-office Department took exceptions to balances due or owing by Abraham Everhart. Whether this was due on account of Abraham Everhart being a poor accountant or careless in his business methods I am unable to say. Anyhow there was a discrepancy in his accounts, and father received the following letter from the Department calling him to account.

Post Office Department,
Solicitors Office,
Sept. 28, 1833,

Sir:—

Yours of the 13th inst is received. Should Ab. Everhart not have paid you the \$4 due on his account, you will please call on Jacob Server and Henry Bartlett, his sureties, for payment and give me early information.

Respectfully,
Yr. Obt. Svt.,

J. G. Whitewell,
acting for Solicitor,

M. H. Reed, Esq., P. M. Skippack, Pa.

Letters in those days conveyed through the mails were not enclosed in envelopes as now; envelopes were either not made, or not in general fashion then. The paper on which the letter from the P. O. Department was written was nicely folded into the shape of the present envelope, the overturned or folded flaps were cemented together with heated wax, and on this was made the impression of the coat-of-arms of the United States

with an engraven metallic seal or stamp, warmed sufficiently to soften the wax to make its impression.

On the face of the folded sheet or letter was written the the name and address, "M. H. Reed, Esq., P. M. Skippack. Pa.," "P. O. Dept." Stamped on the face of the letter, above the address, was the word "FREE" in red ink. Also it was postmarked in red ink, "City of Washington, Sept. 30," but no year given.

A comparison of business done by the postoffice then and now would be interesting. I can only give you the business then. Part of the account slip is missing; I give you what remains. Possibly "balance due" meant the amount due the Department at Washington, over and above the post master's salary, or, it may have meant total amount of business:

Dr. Michael H. Reed, late P. M. at Skippack, Pa.

To balance due on his Post Office account,

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1832	\$ 4.65	
From Jan. 1, to April 1, 1833	5.16	
From April 1, to July 1, 1833	4.48	
From July 1, to Oct. 1, 1833	3.04	
Nov. 21, to this sum received of Abm. Ever-		
hart, late P. M.	4.00	
To acct. Oct. 1, to Dec. 31, 1833	5.35	
To acct. Jan. 1, to April 1, 1834	5.43	
To acct. April 1 to April 11, 1834	due	
	<hr/>	
	\$33.11	
To balance	\$ 3.11	
To acct. April 1, to April 11, 1834, due60	Estimated
	<hr/>	
	\$ 3.71	

On the reverse side of this statement is written:

"Mr. J. Hildebeidle,

Sir:—If you have the balance to spare which is \$5.93 you will please to leave it at No. 11, 4th Street," Philadelphia.

There is no signature to this note; possibly this was written by father, as he was now located in the hat and furrier business

at this address in Philadelphia after leaving Skippackville. It is possible that Mr. Hildebeidle became father's successor as P. M., of Skippackville. I find a Mr. Jonas Hildebeidle, store-keeper, one of father's customers, while in business at Skippackville.

The above statement of debts and credits are quarterly statements. By this report as rendered would indicate that father's term of office must have expired as postmaster in Skippack, April 11, 1834.

The P. O. Department must have had some confusion in its accounts with father, from a similarity of amounts of two drafts he forwarded the Post Master in settlement of his postal affairs. These brought from Washington, D. C., the following letter :

Post Office Department,
Pay Office,
Aug. 26, 1834.

Michael H. Reed, Esq., late P. M.,
Skippack, Pa.

Sir:—

It appears by receipts returned to this Department, that you have paid to Mr. Wm. H. Powell, the amount of two drafts for \$15 each, dated Oct. 1, 1833. As you are credited, is Mr. Powell charged with only one of those drafts. I will thank you to inform me whether two drafts were actually paid, so that the proper entries can be made.

Respectfully yours,
W. W. Payne,
for the principal pay clerk.

Father in the spring of 1834 sold out his hatting and furrier business to one Charles Ruth, also a hatter by trade. Having disposed of his business affairs in Skippackville, after a short respite, removed to Philadelphia, only to engage further in his chosen business, trade or vocation.

When we were old enough to understand as children, it was interesting to listen to father relating his early experiences as a



MICHAEL HARTMAN REED

The picture was taken but a short time before his
decease, about 1896

hatter. In those days a hatter was a hatter and made for trade almost all hats, caps, etc., they sold; today a hatter is a man who sells hats made by others and strictly speaking is but a dealer in headwear. Father would purchase skins of small fur bearing animals, cut the hair from the skins and make the fur into felt for hats which were then dyed, blocked and shaped into the fashionable makes to supply the demand. In season he would gather straw free of knots or joints from grain stubble fields, plait these into bands of long strips, sew them together and block into shape from marketable hats. He would purchase silk plush and other necessary material in the market and out of which build the then much sought for fashionable "stove pipe" hat. Other headwear in season he was "on the job" to manufacture and supply the demand. He was ever alert and kept pace with the times and demands, as the hat dealer of today is ready to supply the styles the trade and fashion requires.

Several pages in father's book were set aside for recipes for dying to make the various shades and colors that seasonable style of hats demanded. These formulas were worked out to a nicety to produce the necessary results, as by the product of his shop his wares were popularized and known. He oft repeated that during the process of dying in colors, inhaling the disagreeable and obnoxious vapors given off by the acids and chemicals in use, was to blame to a large extent for his failing health, which in time compelled him to abandon his chosen occupation or trade.

Father located in Skippackville in the wheelwright shop across the way from Abraham Everhart's hotel. The building was a long one, having a separate apartment or room in one end, but all under one roof. The room was suitable for his business, and here he plied his trade, kept the post office and kept open shop for his many patrons.

His books further show, in those days to suit a head for a suitable hat, measurements were taken. The character of entries in this line are interesting and run thus with price given:

1 bespoke fur hat, size 7 inch, 2 inch brim, price.....	\$3.00
1 bespoke silk hat, 7 1-8 inch head, 7 1-2 inch deep and 2	
inch brim, price	\$4.00

1 bespoke silk hat, 6 7-8 inch head length, 7 1-2 inch deep,

1 3-8 inch brim, price\$4.00

We glean further from the book that he did not only do a retail order business, but also made and jobbed a number of hats to general storekeepers. Among his nearby customers in this line was John Ledrock. I presume this was the storekeeper at the nearby present village of Lederachville. The quantity and number of hats this customer purchased no one man and his family could use, and must have been bought by him for sale. I find the firm of Snyder & Hendricks given. This must have also been a nearby store, that purchased hats in numbers and I presume also for sale. No address in either case is given.

In those days there were honest and dishonest people, some who did, and some who did not pay all of their debts, honestly contracted. The books show this, as some of the accounts remain open and at this late day not any likelihood of their ever being paid in full or liquidated in this world.

The account books reveal not alone debits and credits, formulas and measurements for hats, but other records. Records of periods of sentimentalism, moments of leisure and inspiration, moments of devotion, when the mind soared to higher attributes and ideals. There are verses. Among the poems inscribed are, "Remember the Poor," "Spring," "The Nightingale," "The Spirit of Poesy," etc.

Among the penned poems I find is an "acrostic" which I copy. Possibly intended or may have found its way to her whom he thought well of and had great inspiration for. You will perceive her name is "Henrietta". Fortunately neither is living and I committ no breach of etiquette or confidence by giving this out or making it known. The people of those days had inspirations and romances as the younger have this day.

"Happy angel! How pure and bright
 Ever thou are within my sight;
 Naught but sweet smiles and blushes are
 Richly painted on thy form so fair;
 Innocence, depicted on thy brow
 Ever breathing love, I surely vow;
 The sylvan brook not half so clear

To me as thy sweet charms appear
All loving maid, thee I revere."

Following is a verse possibly by him copied and this may have found its way to "Henrietta" during some moment of inspiration while penning her a line. Anyway it is copied in several places in this book. If it did find its way to this young lady, I wonder, in succeeding years if the pleading wish was complied with and memory brought uppermost to view the sentiment "forget-me-not." I copy verbatim:

"Perhaps in some succeeding year
Your eye may rest one moment here;
And memory once more bring to view
The friend who penned these lines to you;
Wilt thou then breathe a sigh for him
Who makes thee now his writing theme;
And all he asks then, bless his lot,
Are these few words, forget-me-not?"

So much for an early hat manufacturer and tradesman in Skippackville. To this village today this trade is a lost art, at least so far as the making of hats is concerned, but not so far as to the sale of the factory product. In its early days Skippackville was an active and thriving business center not only so far as to the making of hats, but as well, as to all other mechanics, skilled workmen and tradesmen—they then lived thrifty and were an active producing and enterprising element in all inland villages and settlements. Big factories and modern innovations have wrought a change in all of this, and today by absorption or obliteration—this village has suffered its loss only as all of our inland settlements have suffered in the change. This obliteration and absorption is known to us as modern progress and advancement in the trend of times is termed evolution.

THE PLYMOUTH ROAD-TAX LIST OF 1854.

By S. Gordon Smyth

In the latter part of December, 1908, while attending a vendue of personal effects on a farm in Upper Merion township, the auctioneer knocked off to me for a few cents, with other things of more apparent value—a box of old, loose papers—which contained account books, written scraps of paper, and a few faded newspapers; the whole mass seemed as if gathered up for a bonfire, but the commercial second-thought decided upon the chance of sale. This method of ridding oneself of trash, or of what some may regard as trash, is to be commended rather than disposing of it by fire as so often happens becomes the fate of attic rubbish.

When I had the time to examine the contents of the box I found a lot of personal account books, receipted bills for all sorts of legal and business transactions; for domestic supplies and other odds and ends in writing extending from the latter part of the 1700's to and beyond the middle of the last century. Among these were some legal notices, indentures of apprenticeship, cancelled obligations; the constitution and by-laws of the Wm. Penn Horse Company for 1853 with written directions to searching parties in the pursuit of horse thieves; a sale bill for a certain property situate between Broad Axe and Detwiler's mill, dated back in 1816, and a variety of other no less interesting items. But the chief find was a series of road tax books covering the period from 1846 to 1854 as kept by George Shearer when he was a supervisor in Plymouth township. These books I am turning over to this Society together with some other papers. They contain the names of the township taxables, the valuation of their property and the amount levied upon each to be collected as taxes. As they are of a public character and possess some interest to us I have transcribed these records for purposes of immediate reference and have appended them hereto.

Articles of Agreement made and Concluded upon this 12. Day
of January 1819 Between George Shearer of Springfield
township Montgomery County, for one the one part and
Rebecca Davis, Widow of James Davis late of Plymouth
township Montgomery ^{County}, for the other part testifying that the said
Rebecca Davis has hired her son Barry Davis to George Shearer
for the space and time of four years two months and twenty
four Days, for which time said Shearer is to find said
Barry Davis his wearing apparel meat drink washing
and Lodging and give him six months Schooling and after
the Expiration of said term of hiring, to give him to the
value of ten Dollars in new Clothing for the true Performance
of the Above Agreement the Entire bargainably set our hands here
unto the Day and Date Above written

Witness Our Hand

George Shearer

Rebecca Davis

Received April the 5th 1823 of George Shearer the contents
of the Within Agreement in full by me Barry Davis

In looking over the 329 names which comprise the list we are brought into touch with the men of Plymouth of two generations ago. The majority of them were descendants of the earlier settlers of this township and as such their names are household words to us. Here are the Albertsons, Corsons, Conards, Cleavers, Cowdens' Davis, Evans, Fishers, Freas, Gilingees, Hagys, Hallmans, Jones, Leedom, Liveseys, Lukes, Longacres, Lysingers, Marples, Mattis, Merediths, Mulvaney, Phipps, Pughs, Rexs, Richards, Rodebaughs, Roberts, Shepards, Shoemakers, Staleys, Styers, Tysons, Williamis, Woods, Walkers, Yerkes, Yetters, Zells—all as indigenous to the soil of this part of the county as are its certain plants.

The Aimens, Bowers, Carns, Childs, Dewees, Knights, Knox, McCools, McCains, Mooneys, Ritters, Richards, Sands, Schlatters, Whites, Wagers, Wimmers and other families came in later from neighboring townships and the most of them were more or less transitory.

George Shearer who was then the supervisor and kept the books, was at the time, a Plymouth farmer; but prior to this period had been more or less migratory—having lived and farmed in Whitpain, Upper Dublin, Springfield. He was one of the sons of Peter and Mary Shearer, former residents of Whitpain but later of Whitemarsh, where Peter died in 1816, probably near the Broad Axe.

George Shearer makes the record in one of these books under date of 12th November, 1808, that he is now over age and begins work for his father; so I approximate his birth to have been about 1787. His wife's name was Barbara. He died in Plymouth in 1877. David W. Shearer administered upon his estate. But for nine years Shearer was supervisor of Plymouth and evidently gave satisfactory service to his community, and his books show a careful handling of his accounts and of duty well performed.

It would not be amiss at this time, to refer briefly to the fast disappearing methods of road-mending as practiced by these patriarchs of a former generation and whose names illuminate the pages of Shearer's books. We are growing so accustomed to

innovations, and so easily do we adapt ourselves to new conditions, that the changes pass almost unnoticed, so that the things done today becomes the history of yesterday, and we ourselves pass from youth to old age in the same smooth fashion while the thing that is fleeting is soon forgot or can be scarcely remembered as the years multiply upon us.

I recall, that in my boyhood, in the county which was then my home,—the authorities of a certain township had a fashion of auctioneering off to the lowest bidder among the farmers of my neighborhood, the repair work on the local dirt roads, as they were called in contradistinction to the piked highways; and the man who was a successful bidder was obligated to maintain such roads in good travelable condition during his year or become responsible for his neglect if complaint be made to the justice of the peace. Farmers who had large properties and kept many men and horses were the ones who generally got the most of the work to do, and the smaller farmer either worked for them or bought a small section.

The custom was, as I remember it,—that a group of farmers of a particular neighborhood would pool their interests, get their equipment together at a stated time and place and with a large company of men, horses, boys, teams and carts start the operation of road mending and kept at it for weeks together or until all the sections they were interested in had been put in order. There were gutters to deepen, washes to fill, "Thank ye mums" to be reconstructed, rocks to be blasted and the whole gamut of construction work that followed in the wake of the winter-breaking storms and spring thaws. The work was hard and hustling, but with a lot of earnest men it was accomplished quickly. In such a company each man was an independent unit and so comported himself. There was always plenty of gossip and fun and more often than not the bully was present. Examples of strength and endurance often occurred. Then, too, there were scenes when hot and sulphurous arguments ended in exhibition of passion and fistic encounters; but upon the whole, the spirit of frolic and friendliness worked together without loss of industry and efficiency to the constituency.

Mr George Shearer

Take Notice, That you stand rated for
the ensuing year, as follows :

	RATES.	TAX.
	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.
90 Acres of Land	3875	
Occupation	100	
4 Horses	150	
12 Cattle	144	
Household furniture		9.39
Moneys at interest		
Money loaned on mortgage		
Stocks		
Gold watch		
Silver watch		
Carriage		
Salary or emoluments of office		

Rate **22** per \$100.

And that an APPEAL will be held at
the Commissioners office
in Norristown

on the *4th* day of *May* next
at 10 o'clock, A. M.

John Sheneberger Assessor.
April 2nd 1843

There were two seasons in which the bulk of the roadwork was done; in the Spring after corn-planting and in the Fall after seeding; these were "the spells" when the farmers were the least busy with home affairs. In these periods the whole of the township roads would be gone over and put in order for summer travel or winter's hard usage. There were times when unusual conditions—such as unusually heavy storms and freshets made the roads temporarily impassable—where the responsible party was obligated to get his forces at work for immediate repairs.

In some townships where a tax levy was made for the upkeep of the roads, as in Shearer's time, the ratables had the privilege of working out their taxes and often of earning something beside if the work was plentiful and they wished to do so. In looking over Shearer's accounts it appears, as if the most of the citizens of Plymouth Township were elected to take this course at one time or another. The tax levy in his regime ranged from 12 to 22 cents on the \$100.00 valuation, according to the situation of the township road conditions. We find that Shearer was paid for his mental and physical supervision of affairs at the rate of \$1.00 per day; other men received 80 cents, boys 40 cents, stonemason \$1.50, teams \$1.00 horse and cart and man, 75c; horse and cart \$1.50. Stone was delivered on the job at from 25c to 40c per perch and gravel at 10 cents the load. Contrast these figures with the wages paid today! You can't get much of a laborer for less than \$1.75 or \$2.00 per day; skilled mechanics from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day, horses \$1.50 each; stone at a dollar-the-perch and sand the same. But how changed is the situation! Today there are only a few dirt roads remaining in this and adjacent townships and these are little used; everything is macadam; and we have come to appreciate a good road as a good business investment, and these with the everpresent automobile are two of the elements in the leaven that is working out our progress; and with the taking over of the principal highways by the State Department that is spending millions of money in their care the day is not far distant when the township's oversight in such work will be eliminated and it is possible that within the lifetime of some now present, the

ancient custom of road making and mending will have become a lost art.

Perhaps we can best realize the distant age in which Shearer lived and did his work by a reference to his contemporaries and the newspapers he left behind furnish us the best evidence of the life of his times and its local relation.

In a fragment of a newspaper with title gone is found an advertisement by Peter Fritz forbidding the removal of marble from his quarry grounds in Whitemarsh, then in the occupancy of C. M. Hocker. The date is 12th of May, 1834, and gives Fritz's residence as 214 Sassafras street, Phila. In the same fragment is another advertisement, dated 1st August, 1834 in which Cornelius Tyson gives notice that by reason of his desire to remove to "the western country" he offers for sale, with other parcels, his tavern property located on Skippack Road in Worcester township, 22 miles from Philadelphia. Another notice is inserted by Robert McAdam, stating that he will dispose of, by public sale, on Christmas Day, 1834, his well-known tavern stand "at the sign of the Plough," situate in Dresher-town at the intersection of Limekiln pike and Susquehanna street, in the township of Upper Dublin, 14 miles from Philadelphia and 3 miles from Willow Grove.

The initial number of The Public Ledger a news daily appears under date of March 25th, 1836. There is in it an advertisement calling attention to the Philadelphia Savings Institution, located at No. 100 Walnut street, between Delaware 4th and 5th streets—of which organization Peter Fritz was president. A news item states that Richard Rush, a namesake of the ex-Secretary of State (under Monroe) with his brother Thomas, were brought before Mayor John Swift's court and fined for unruly behavior.

In The Farmer's Almanac for 1836, we find the names of those who were at the head of the national government in that year: Andrew Jackson, President; Martin Van Buren, Vice President, (who succeeded Jackson in the Presidency); John Forsyth, Secretary of State; Levi Woodberry, Secretary of the Treasury; Lewis Cass, Secretary of War; Mahlon Dickson,

Secretary of the Navy; Amos Kendall, Postmaster General, and Benjamin F. Butler (of N. Y.) Attorney General.

There was a copy of "The Herald and Sentinel" published by John R. Walker, dated 13th June, 1839 which contains at the top of its editorial column this declaration: "Our candidate for the Presidency—Henry Clay, of Kentucky." This seems to have been about the middle of Van Buren's administration and shows, for one thing that early consideration was given possible candidates. However, "Tippecanoe Harrison and Tyler too," became the successors of Van Buren in 1841.

In the advertising columns of this paper appears the following:

"DOLLARS—DOLLARS"

"Wanted American and Spanish Five Francks. Also Sovereigns and all kinds of Specie, by Francis M. Drexel, Stocks and Exchange Broker, No. 64 No. 3rd street, Virginia and Maryland Bank Notes bought at the lowest discount. Also all kinds of uncurrent bank notes."

George Shearer was evidently a Democrat of the old school. He was a constant subscriber to The Norristown Register and its successor "The Register and Democrat." In the period of the former's publication an "extra" covering an entire blanket page, was brought out on 6th of December 1843, containing President Tyler's Message to the Congress. In its issue for 7th July, 1847 under its changed title, and during the administration of President Polk, the paper came out solidly for the continuance of Francis R. Shunk, of this county, as Governor; and ex-Judge Morris Longstreth, of Whitmarsh township, as Canal Commissioner, an office then, second only to that of Governor. Shunk was re-elected but because of ill-health resigned the office early in 1848, and was succeeded ad interim by William F. Johnson, who, as President of the Senate, gravitated into office under the Constitutional provision.

From a political broadside addressed to George Shearer we learn of a gathering of the county democracy to be held at John Hartranft's house in Pottstown, on the 31st of August, about 10 days after the death of Governor Shunk. At this

meeting John B. Sterigere, Esq., of this county, was publicly endorsed as a candidate for Governor and opposing the candidacy of Johnstone, Longstreth and Fry; but notwithstanding the editorial efforts of Samuel D. Patterson, Sterigere was eliminated, Longstreth nominated and the latter, at the election, was defeated by Johnstone by a few votes. In those days the newspapers seethed with politics, so referring again to the issue of July 7th, 1847, we find that almost its entire first page is devoted to a recital of the life and services of Gen. Zachary Taylor, who, while yet the laurels of a victorious campaign in Mexico were fresh upon him—was being groomed for the next Presidency. On the 13th of the following September, the City of Mexico fell to the conquering General so that his election to the Presidency was assured.

The same paper contains a report of the sale of the residence of the late Joseph Napoleon Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain, to Thomas Richards, of Philadelphia, for \$60,000; also commenting on the fact that the late King's personal effects brought only half-price.

In another column of "The Register" there is a lengthy account of a reception given to General Robert Patterson on the 2nd of July, 1847, by the citizens of Philadelphia, at the United States Hotel. In responding to the address General Patterson paid a glowing tribute to the bravery of two Pennsylvania regiments of Volunteers that were in his division at the battle of Cerro Gordo. Oddly enough, a news item in the same journal contained the promise that the telegraph line would soon be completed to Halifax and this country would then be brought 2 days nearer England, so that it would soon be possible to have our foreign news within 10 days! Just fancy, then, these great expectations and compare them to what we are today realizing, then you will understand that great things have been accomplished within the few intervening decades between George Shearer's days and ours.

Plymouth Township Road Tax List: 1846 to 1854. Tabulated from the books of George Shearer, supervisor.

Albertson, Alice	1847-1854
Albertson, Est. of Benjamin	1846-1854
Albertson, Jacob	1846-1854
Albertson, Josiah	1846
Allen, Matthew	1849
Amen, James M.	1853-1854
Appelzeller, Jacob	1850
Argue, Henry	1846-1849
Argue, Elizabeth	1850-1854
Baker, John	1854
Baker, William	1854
Baker, Jacob	1850-1854
Baker, Sylvester	1850
Bader, John	1850-1854
Banes, James	1846-1847
Banes, Thomas	1848-1854
Barnes, Frederick	1851-1852
Bartleson, William	1851-1854
Baumgarten, Martin	1848
Bauder, Peter	1846-1847
Baptist, Moses	1846
Beatty, James	1847
Berkheimer, John	1846-1851
Berkheimer, Est. of John	1852-1854
Berkheimer, George	1853-1854
Berkheimer, Est. of George	1853-1854
Berkheimer, Mary	1852-1854
Bonter, Peter	1847-1854
Bonter, Edward	1853-1854
Bowen, Henry	1851-1854
Boyd, David Estate	1846
Boyd, Estate James	1847-1848
Boyle, John	1853
Boyle, James Estate	1853

Brooks, Isaac	1847
Brown, Frederick, Jr.	1846
Blee, Hiram	1846-1854
Blarer, Hugh	1854
Brison (Bryson), John	1854
Brise, Charles	1850-1851
Butcher, William	1852-1853
Cain (Kane), Alex.	1850-1851
Campbell, James	1850
Campbell, William	1848-1852
Carn, Henry	1851-1854
Carn, David	1850
Carrick, David	1848
Chestnut, John	1853-1854
Childs, Powell	1854
Childs, Roxanna	1846-1854
Cleaver, John	1846-1854
Clouts, William	1846
Clana, James	1851
Clinton, Peter	1852-1854
Clinton, Richard	1852-1854
Cole, James	1846-1852
Cole, John	1854
Conard, Peter	1846-1854
Corson, Alan W.	1846-1852
Corson, Est. of A. W.	1852-1854
Corson, Elias Hicks	1848-1851
Corson, George	1848-1853
Corson, Est. of Geo. and E. H.	1846-1854
Corson, Hiram, M. D.	1847-1854
Corson, Joseph	1848-1854
Corson, William	1854
Cowden, John	1846-1854
Cowden, Thomas	1846-1847
Cowden, Est. of Thomas	1848
Cox, Charles	1849

Cranier, John	1854
Crook (Croocket), Edward	1850-1853
Davis, Barnabas	1846-1854
Davis, Daniel	1851-1854
Davis, Francis	1846-1854
Davis, Lewis	1846
Davis, Marple	1846-1854
Daniels, David	1851
Daniels, Michael	1846-1854
DeHaven, Mordecai	1846-1852
DeHaven, Est. of Mordecai	1846-1852
Detweiler, John	1846
Deweese, William	1846-1854
Deweese, Est. William	1848
Deweese, William H.	1850
Donohue, Thomas	1854
Dull, Frederick	1846-1854
Edwards, Samuel	1849-1854
Egbet, Jesse	1849-1854
Ellis, Joseph	1849-1854
Evans, Amos	1857
Evans, James B., Est.	1848-1849
Evens, Ferdinand	1853
Evers, William	1853
Famous, William	1853-1854
Farringer, George	1846-1850
Farmer, James	1847-1851
Fisher, Jacob	1850
Fisher, Samuel	1846-1854
Fisher, Daniel	1854
Fitzpatrick, Cornelius	1846-1847
Fegley, Horatio	1852-1854
Flynn, James	1854
Foley, Thomas	1853
Freese, George	1846-1854

Freese, Joseph	1850-1854
Freese, Samuel	1846-1854
Fronefield, Jacob	1852-1854
Fullam, Matthew	1849
Gallagher, James	1846-1854
Gallagher, John	1846-1854
Garber, Theodore	1851
Garlinger, Henry, Esq.	1846-1851
Garlinger, Est of Henry	1852-1854
Gibbs, Thomas	1852-1854
Gidigan, John	1850
Green, Charles E.	1846-1847
Green, Carlos	1850-1854
Gordon, Robert	1846-1854
Gordon, Ross	1853-1854
Gordon, Chalkley	1853
Griftock, James	1847
Hagy, Samuel	1846
Hagy, Est of Samuel	1847-1854
Hallman, Jacob	1853-1854
Hallman, John C.	1848-1854
Hallman, John R.	1846-1854
Hallman, George	1849-1854
Hallman, Samuel	1846-1854
Hallman, Samuel, Est. of	1847-1848
Hallman, Thomas	1852
Hallowell, William	1846-1854
Harry, ——— Estate of	1851
Harner, Anthony	1847-1854
Harner, James	1854
Hart, Andrew	1846-1854
Hart, Henry	1847-1850
Hart, Reuben	1851-1854
Haritage, Samuel	1846-1847
Hellings, Jolly	1846-1848

Hellings, William D.	1852-1854
Hesham, Charles E.	1846
Hesham, Robert M.	1847-1849
Heysham, Robert	1846-1854
Hiltner, George	1846-1852
Holt, Elwood	1854
Holt, Seth	1846-1854
Holt, Thomas	1851-1852
Hoffman, Peter	1851-1852
Hoffman, William	1854
Hottenstein, Jacob	1854
Houft, Isaiah	1847
Hoot, Jesse	1851-1852
Huston, Charles	1846-1854
Hipple, Joseph	1854

James, Seth	1846-1854
Jeannes, Seth	1848
Jeannes, William	1846-1850
Johnston, Charles	1846-1854
Johnston, Isaac	1846-1854
Johnston, Jacob	1847-1854
Jones, Elizabeth	1846-1854
Jones, Mark	1849-1850

Kenderdine, David	1853-1854
Kenderdine, John	1853-1854
Kerper, George	1853-1854
Kerbaugh, Benjamin	1848-1854
Kirtner, Stephen	1848-1854
Kirk, Jesse	1849-1852
Kirk, Edwin	1850-1854
Kollin, Christopher	1851
Knight, Jonas	1853
Knox, Thomas P.	1846-1847
Knox, Est of Thos. P.	1848-1854
Klair, Frederick	1846

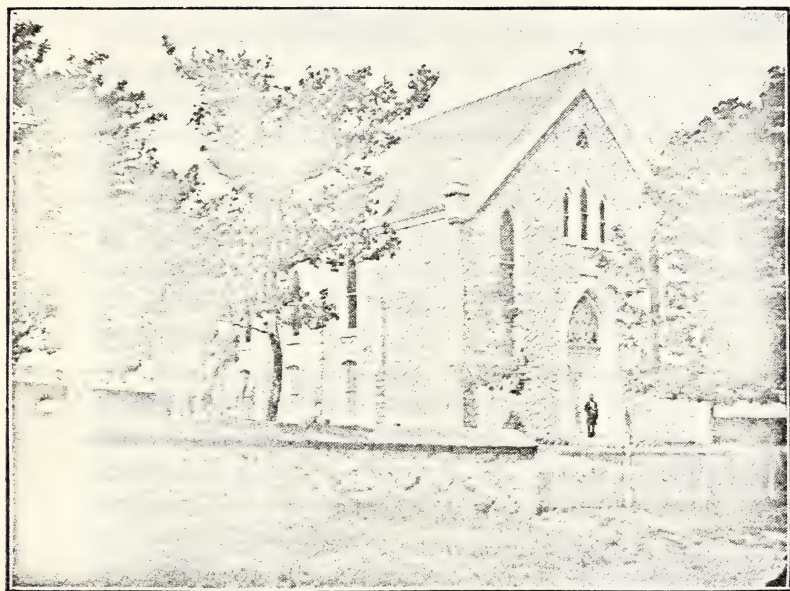
Layton, James	1847-1848
Lary, Charles	1853-1854
Lary, Jeremiah	1853
Leedom, Edward	1846-1854
Lewis David	1849-1854
Lewis Nathan	1846-1854
Leozer, Christian,	1846-1854
Leozer, Christopher	1851-1852
Leozer, James	1846-1854
Lentz, Jacob	1850
Livesey, Thomas	1846-1854
Longacre, Isaac	1846-1854
Lukens, Alan	1849-1852
Lukens, Elizabeth	1854
Lukens, Reuben	1846-1852
Lukens, Est. of Reuben	1853-1854
Lukens, Thomas	1851
Lysinger, Andrew	1846-1854
Lysinger, Henry	1846-1854
Lysinger, Henry, Jr.	1854
Lysinger, Catharine	1854
Marple, Abraham	1846-1854
Marple, David	1846-1853
Marple, Elwood	1846-1854
Marple, Enoch, Sr.	1846-1853
Marple, Enoch, Jr.	1847-1854
Marple, Daniel	1851-1854
Marple, Jonathan	1849
Mather, Joseph Est.	1846-1847
Mattis, Jacob	1850-1854
Markley, John	1852-1854
MacAfee, David	1853-1854
McCann, John	1846-1854
McCoy, James	1846-1849
McClanen, George	1846-1847
McClain, William	1850-1854
McCool, Charles	1849-1854

McCloskey, Michael	1851-1852
McGann, Joseph	1847-1854
McGann, John	1848-1853
McGann, Isaac	1848-1853
McGann, Samuel	1848-1854
McGann, Thomas	1851-1854
McVaugh, Isaac	1846-1851
McVaugh, John	1846-1852
McVaugh, Joseph	1846-1851
McVaugh, Samuel	1846-1852
Meredith, Jesse	1846-1854
Meredith, William	1848-1849
Montgomery, William	1846-1849
Moody, James	1846-1848
Mulvaney, Daniel	1846-1854
Mulvaney, George	1847-1854
Mulvaney, William	1852
Nooney, Elwood	1846-1849
Osler, Harmon	1853
Pawling, Albert	1850-1854
Pawling, Henry	1850-1851
Pawling, Rebecca	1846-1849
Pawling, Thomas	1850-1854
Pearce, James	1846-1854
Peters, Thomas	1846-1854
Phipps, Jonathan	1853
Pluck, William	1849
Prizer, Isaac	1852-1854
Pugh, Eli	1850-1853
Pyott, George	1851-1854
Rex, William	1846-1854
Richards, Samuel	1853-1854
Rinker, Elizabeth	1854
Ritter, George K.	1846-1854

Ritter, Job	1846-1854
Rodenbaugh, Azer	1851
Rodenbaugh, John	1849-1850
Rodenbaugh, Jacob	1846-1852
Rodenbaugh, Harriett	1846-1854
Rodenbaugh, George	1854
Rodenbaugh, Henry	1846-1854
Rodenbaugh, Michael	1846-1854
Rodenbaugh, Nathan	1846-1849
Rodenbaugh Thomas	1949-1854
Rodenbaugh, William	1846-1854
Roberts, George	1846-1854
Roberts, Charles	1850-1854
Roberts, Jonathan	1853-1854
Rhumer, Adam	1846-1854
Sands, Mahlon	1850-1851
Schlatter, William	1846-1854
Schlatter, William Jr.	1853-1854
Schlatter, Seth	1853
Seehler, (Saylor) Henry	1847-1853
Shaw, Amos	1851-1853
Sheffer, Joseph	1846-1853
Shearer, George	1846-1854
Shepard, Jesse	1846-1854
Shepard, Mary A.	1846-1852
Shoemaker, John	1851-1854
Shrive, Elias	1850-1851
Smith, John R.,	1847
Smith, Daniel	1849-1852
Smith, Henry	1853
Sipher, Jacob	1850
Speelheffer, Reuben	1846-1854
Staley, George	1846-1854
Stoak, Charles, Est.	1846
Stoak, Samuel K.	1846-1854
Stoak, Christian D.	1852-1854

Studemyer, Gottlieb	1846-1850
Styer, Isaac	1853
Thompson, Benjamin	1849-1854
Tippen, Alexander	1846-1847
Toland, Charles	1846-1847
Toland, Joseph	1846-1847
Trexler, David	1846-1847
Tyson, William	1850-1851
Vandevere, Francis	1850-1854
Van Winkle, John	1850-1854
Walters, Samuel	1849-1852
Wager, Jacob	1854
Walker, Jacob, Sr.	1846-1853
Walker, Jacob, Jr.	1846-1854
Walker, John	1849
Webster, Samuel	1847
Wentz, Josiah	1846
Williams, Abigail	1850-1854
Williams, Elmer	1849
Williams, John S.	1849-1852
Williams, John	1850
Williams, Jonathan	1846-1854
Williams, Hannah	1846-1849
Williams, Joseph	1849-1851
Williams, Sarah	1850-1854
Wilt, George	1846-1853
Wilfong, John	1847-1849
Wingate, Edward	1846-1856
Wingate, David	1849
Windett, Edward	1853-1854
Windett, William	1847
Wimmer, Jacob	1846-1854
Whimer, Philip	1851-1854
Whitall, Franklin	1852-1854
White, Jacob	1846-1847

White, John	1846
Wood, Aaron	1846-1847
Wood, James	1849-1854
Wood, Jonathan	1850-1854
Yerkes, Abraham	1846
Yerkes, William	1846-1849
Yetter, Abraham	1846-1854
Yetter, Lewis	1846-1854
Zell, David	1846
Zell, Jane	1846-1854
Zearfoss, Jacob	1851-1852
Zimmerman, John	1846-1849



LOWER PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

HISTORY OF THE LOWER PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

By Rev. S. O. Perry

The writer of this history of the Lower Providence Baptist church from its organization up to this date, covering a period of one hundred years, though not connected with the church at the present time, yet it is true that he was one of its members for fifty consecutive years, but memory fails to recall much that he saw and part of which he was during the fleeting years of half a century.

The writers work, however, has been materially lightened by making use of facts concerning the early history of the church contained in an able jubilee discourse delivered by Rev. W. H. H. Marsh on August 4, 1860, and subsequently printed by request of the church.

The unwritten history of the past indicates that about twenty-five years prior to the organization of the church, pioneer Baptist ministers occasionally preached in dwellings of Baptist families, declaring God's truth as Baptists understand it. At that time there was no Baptist church within eight or ten miles of Lower Providence.

About the year 1808 there were eleven persons in the community who were in fellowship with the Baptist denomination as well as some others who were Baptists in principle, and the first meeting-house was built on its present site during the years 1808 and 1809. Its dimensions were twenty-eight by thirty-eight feet, and the cost is given as \$951.98½. This house was first opened for worship Jan. 1, 1810. On the fifth of August of the same year it was dedicated and the Revs. William White, Joseph Matthias and Dr. Hough, officiating. Wm. Johnson, Daniel Morgan, Edward Roberts, Lenah Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Alice Philips, Elizabeth and Abigail Davis, Benjamin and Jane Reese and John Robinson were its first regular

members, and known as the Baptist church of Lower Providence, after which to them the ordinance of the Lord' supper was solemnized.

In the same year the church became connected with the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

William Johnson and Daniel Morgan were the first deacons. These served the church faithfully until removed by death, and on October 2, 1832, David Allabough, Isaac Johnson, John Reese, and Isaac Kurtz were chosen to the deaconship, and in 1854, Benjamin Johnson and James Casselberry were chosen. Of these nine deacons who served the church during the first fifty years of its existence but three were living when the jubilee services were held and none are with us now, but their memories are cherished by some today who knew and loved them for the good they did.

The infant church was for some time dependent on supplies for preaching, but on December 20, 1812, Rev. Daniel James was ordained in the church as its first pastor and served three years during which three were added to the church by baptism. On April 1, 1817, Rev. J. Philips was called and ordained pastor and served the church about two years, during which but one was baptized, that person being the father of the writer. In March, 1819, Rev. John S. Jenkins became pastor, and after serving the church about six and one-half years he resigned and was succeeded by Rev. William Strawbridge who without being elected pastor served the church as a supply for three years. His remains are resting in our cemetery. His worldly estate he bequeathed to the cause of ministerial education.

On September 1, 1828, Rev. J. S. Jenkins was recalled as pastor and served until February 1, 1840, having received during his last pastorate of upwards of eleven years more than two hundred persons into the fellowship of the church. It is said to be a fact well established that on one occasion he baptized twenty-two candidates in twenty minutes. After the departure of Brother J. S. Jenkins, Rev. Hutchins supplied the pulpit until July, 1841, when Rev. Daniel Trites began a pastorate which continued until September 7, 1844. During his pastorate

forty-one persons were baptized and added to the church. He was regarded as an able and devoted pastor. His remains are also resting in our cemetery.

After the resignation of Brother Trites, Rev. Hutchins supplied the church until July, 1846, when Rev. Joseph Currin became pastor, who resigned after serving the church faithfully for more than six years, having received into the church during his pastorate about twenty by baptism. His successor was Rev. D. Jefferis, who became pastor in June, 1852, and resigned November 12, 1858. During six and one-half years he served the church faithfully and his ministry was blessed of God to the conversion of one hundred and twenty-eight persons. Three of these entered the ministry and one of these, though advanced in years, is preaching yet. During Brother Jefferis' pastorate he held a series of meetings in the borough of Pottstown which resulted in a great awakening and the baptism of fifty-five persons who were dismissed as constituent members of the First Baptist church of Pottstown of which Brother Jefferis became pastor upon its organization, in the autumn of 1858. Benjamin Johnson and James Casselberry were chosen deacons of the church during Brother Jefferis' pastorate.

In February, 1859, Rev. W. H. H. Marsh became pastor and entered vigorously upon his work.

In addition to preaching for the church at the morning and evening service, he frequently preached on Sunday afternoons at school houses and other openings, and did much good in that way. It was during his pastorate that additional ground was bought and the parsonage erected.

Having thus given a brief view of the church and its ministry for the first fifty years of its existence, let us turn to the buildings used by the church up to the time of the jubilee service. The erection of the first meeting-house has already been noted. The growth of the church in twenty-eight years was such that a larger building was required. The second house of worship was dedicated November 19, 1836, but seven years afterward it was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt, and in August

1843, it was dedicated. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. Samuel Aaron, of happy memory.

Concerning those who were licensed by the church to preach the gospel the first was Albert Anderson, 1844, Brother John Reese, 1845, Brother J. M. Perry, 1856. Of these Brother Anderson died young, but Brothers John Reese and J. M. Perry were spared for many years of faithful and effective service, but they now rest from their labors; the ashes of the one rests in our cemetery, those of the other lie near the church which he built and which he served when living at Wylliesburg, in Southern Virginia.

Let us turn now to the jubilee service held here on August 3, 1860 in the second year of Brother Marsh's pastorate. On the evening of that day a sermon was preached by Rev. D. Jefferies. On Saturday morning August 4, the jubilee sermon was preached by pastor Marsh from Psalm, 126; verse 30. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." On Saturday evening Rev. J. M. Perry preached, on Sunday morning pastor Marsh preached, after which the Lord's supper was administered, and during which remarks were made by Rev. J. Sisty and Rev. J. S. Jenkins. In the evening J. G. En-triken preached and thus the jubilee exercises passed into history. During Brother Marsh's pastorate the attitude of the church against the manufacture and sale and use of intoxicating beverages was firmly maintained and alcoholic wine as far as possible was excluded from the communion table. Brother Marsh's pastorate was for the most part during the stormy period of the civil war, during which pastor and people rendered to the United States government moral and material support. Brother Marsh's resignation went into effect on January 25, 1863, after a pastorate of nearly four years during which thirty-two persons received baptism at his hands, a few of whom remain with us until this day but some have fallen in sleep. Brother Marsh's immediate successor was Rev. John S. Miller who assumed the pastorate in June, 1863, and continued until his resignation about the close of the year 1866, he having served the church faithfully about three and one-half years, during

which he baptized twenty-seven into the fellowship of the church. During his pastorate the late Henry Harley, and Sam'l O. Perry were chosen and ordained deacons, in which office deacon Harley served faithfully until removed by death.

In April, 1867, Brother J. T. Bender became pastor. This brother having previously been connected with the Free Will Baptists where he had received ordination, the church expressed satisfaction with his ordination, and more fully to express that satisfaction fixed a day in which public recognition services were held, which was on August 15, 1867. During Brother Bender's pastorate an organ was purchased and used for the first time in the history of the church. Brother Bender's pastorate closed May 1, 1869, having continued a little more than two years during which visible progress was made along spiritual lines and eight persons were added to the church by baptism.

On July 31, 1869, Rev. C. A. Hewett was called to the pastorate. He was residing near Norristown when he received the call, but subsequently moved into the parsonage and did good service for the church and community for about two years. During his pastorate some improvements were made inside the church building, and being a preacher of marked ability he drew large congregations. During his pastorate fourteen were added to the church by baptism.

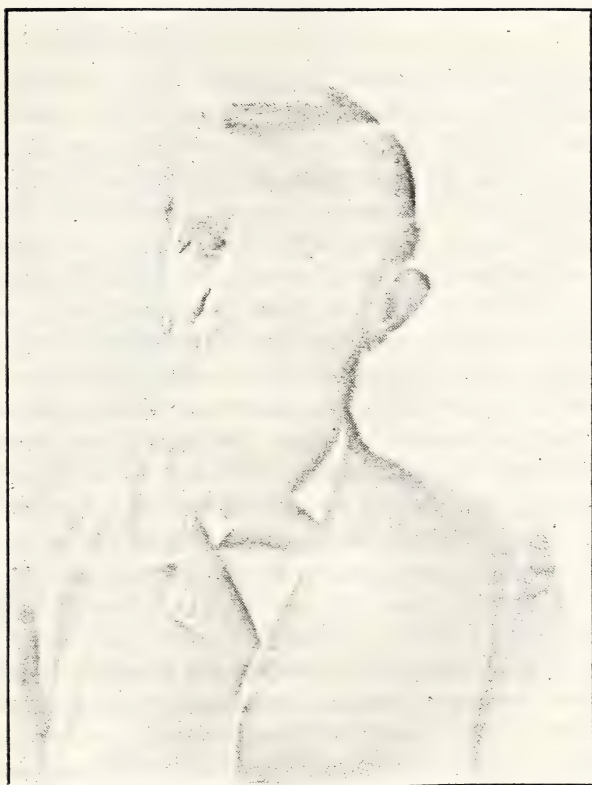
On September 30, 1871, Rev. D. J. R. Strayer was elected pastor and moving promptly on the field took up the work of preaching the Word, and caring for the flock. This pastorate ended by his resignation in May, 1874. His labors were blessed of God to the conversion of a goodly number, thus adding to the church's spiritual power and enlarging its material resources. The church records show that he baptized into the fellowship of the church thirty-four persons, a number of whom are still living. During his pastorate Brother David Roberts, Andrew Morgan, Milton I. Davis and John Worley were chosen deacons. Of these, deacon Davis is still living and has not severed his connection with the church. During Brother Strayer's pastorate a sentiment prevailed that the church edifice ought to un-

dergo extensive alterations, or a new building erected. Not seeing alike on this matter nothing was done until a few years later, when the sentiment in favor of a new building became practically unanimous. It was during Brother Strayer's pastorate that Brother S. O. Perry was licensed to preach the gospel.

On November 12, 1874, Rev. George Ballentine was chosen pastor. During the winter of 1875 and 1876 the church was graciously revived and thirty-five were baptized. On June 3, 1876, Brothers Ballentine and Perry were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions for building a new meeting house the next year, provided the amount of money would warrant it.

On hearing the report of the committee that nearly \$6000 had already been pledged, the church promptly and harmoniously voted that the time had come to arise and build. During the summer of 1877 the work on the new edifice was vigorously pushed and on the thirteenth day of December, 1877, the dedication took place. Previous to the devotional exercises a report of the building committee was made setting forth that every dollar due for material and labor expended on the building had been paid. This committee consisted of Isaac Johnson, S. O. Perry, E. C. Keelor, Wm. J. Reese, H. C. Harley, John C. Saylor and Joseph Miller; Wm. J. Reese and S. O. Perry are the only survivors.

Pastor Ballentine presiding, the morning sermon was preached by Dr. Cathcart, the afternoon sermon by Rev. John Peddie and in the evening addresses were made by pastors of neighboring churches. Previous to building the new meeting house and during its construction meetings were held by Brothers Ballentine and Perry in the school house at Shannonville (now Audubon). Considerable interest was developed and a flourishing Sunday school was established. Later, a chapel was built on a lot donated by our brother the late John Williams. Bimonthly services are still maintained there by Brother Perry who has charge of the work.



REV. S. O. PERRY

During Brother Ballentine's pastorate Brothers R. M. Hunsicker and Joseph Plush were licensed to preach the gospel, and Brothers Jacob Greger, Henry Warren and Wm. H. Gristock were elected and ordained deacons. Brother Ballentine's strenuous labors having to some extent impaired his health he resigned December 2, 1882, having served the church about eight years during which seventy-nine were baptized and received into the fellowship of the church.

On August 6, 1883, Rev. T. J. Siegfried became pastor. Brother Plush a licentiate of the church, was dismissed to Dunning, Pa., where he was ordained and became pastor of the Dunning church. Brother R. M. Hunsicker was also dismissed and entered, after being ordained, into pastoral work in central Pennsylvania. On April 23, 1886, Brother Isaac Johnson, senior deacon of the church, passed away. From the time of his baptism in 1829 until his death in 1886, he walked in unbroken fellowship with this church with the exception of about four years when he resided in Norristown and was a member of the First Baptist church of that town. He served as a deacon of the church for nearly fifty years. Commencing with the week of prayer in January 1887, pastor Siegfried conducted a series of meetings during which the church was graciously revived, and as one of the results of the meeting twenty were received for baptism and church membership. Among these was Brother Theodore Heysham, who was licensed by the church to preach, and was subsequently ordained after having taken a liberal course of preparation for his work. On June 7, 1888, a council called by the church ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry Brother Sam'l O. Perry. The ordination sermon was preached by the late Rev. W. W. Dalby. On September 1, 1888, Brother Siegfried resigned after a pastorate of about five years. About forty were baptized during his pastorate.

On March 25, 1889, Rev. S. C. Dare was called to be pastor and remained with the church about two years during which twenty were added to the church by baptism. He resigned March 22, 1891, and was followed by Rev. Wm. M. Courson

who was elected pastor September 25, 1891. At this time he was a student in Crozier Theological Seminary, where he remained until the annual commencement in June, 1892. He filled his pulpit appointments regularly while a student and on June 9, 1892, he was ordained by a council called by the church; and marrying shortly afterwards and moving into the parsonage, took hold of his pastoral duties with promptness and activity. In the autumn of 1893 considerable interest developed at meetings in the chapel in Audubon, where Brother Courson assisted by others, conducted a series of meetings which resulted under God's blessing in the baptism and reception of fifteen members to the church. About this time the church withdrew from the Philadelphia Association and became connected with the North Philadelphia, where it still remains.

During the years 1894 and 1895 bi-monthly services in the Audubon chapel were conducted alternately by Brothers Courson and Perry, but in the spring of 1897 an arrangement was effected by which the charge of the service was put into the hands of Brother Perry, the congregation assuming all the expense of the service became practically self-sustaining.

On June 16, 1897, a council was called and Brother Theodore Heysham was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry.

In March, 1898, Brother John C. Saylor after having served the church as treasurer for twenty-two consecutive years, resigned and received a cordial vote of thanks for his long and faithful service, and about this time was introduced the weekly envelope system of contribution for church expenses which was regarded as an improvement on the methods of the past. The records of the church show that during the decade of Brother Courson's pastorate the baptisms numbered fifty-eight, and they also show that during these years the church lost heavily by the death of many beloved members many of whom had lived to a good old age. Sisters Zimmerman and Custer were beyond ninety years old, and sisters Mary Reese, R. Caselberry, H. Custer, C. Shrawder, Mrs. Smoyer and Mrs. Reiff and of the Brothers A. Morgan, E. C. Keelor, J. Shrawder, J. Cole and J. O. Zimmerman had all gone beyond their three-score years and ten. During Brother Courson's pastorate har-

mony prevailed, and the relations of the church with other denominations were cordial and fraternal. He resigned December 9, 1901, and the church was pastorless until Feb. 1, 1903, when Rev. F. W. Randall became pastor and remained until the Autumn of 1905. During his pastorate some alterations were made in the main audience room and the walls and ceiling were re-frescoed, giving an improvement to the appearance of the auditorium. Sixteen were added to the church by baptism during his pastorate.

In the spring of 1907 Rev. D. W. Sheppard was chosen pastor and entered upon his work. As the church had been pastorless for nearly two years it took some time to get matters properly shaped for doing effective work. However he soon gained the confidence and love of his people who regarded him as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, and he stands well in the community as a gentleman and a christian. Nor has his ministry been without fruitage. The Lord has helped him in leading souls to believe in Jesus Christ. Thirty-three have been added to the church, sixteen by baptism.

For one hundred years this church has stood steadfastly and loyally for the truth as taught in the scriptures and as the Baptist denomination holds it. It has taken strong ground against the sale and use of intoxicating beverages. It sympathized with the downtrodden in the years when human slavery prevailed in our country and rejoiced in its overthrow.

When their second house of worship was burned part of the debt incurred in its erection was unpaid. Discouraged but not disheartened they faced the situation with unflinching courage and acquitted themselves as men and women having a sublime trust in God. They had a mind to work and in due time another house arose on the site of the burned building and was joyfully dedicated to the worship of the living God.

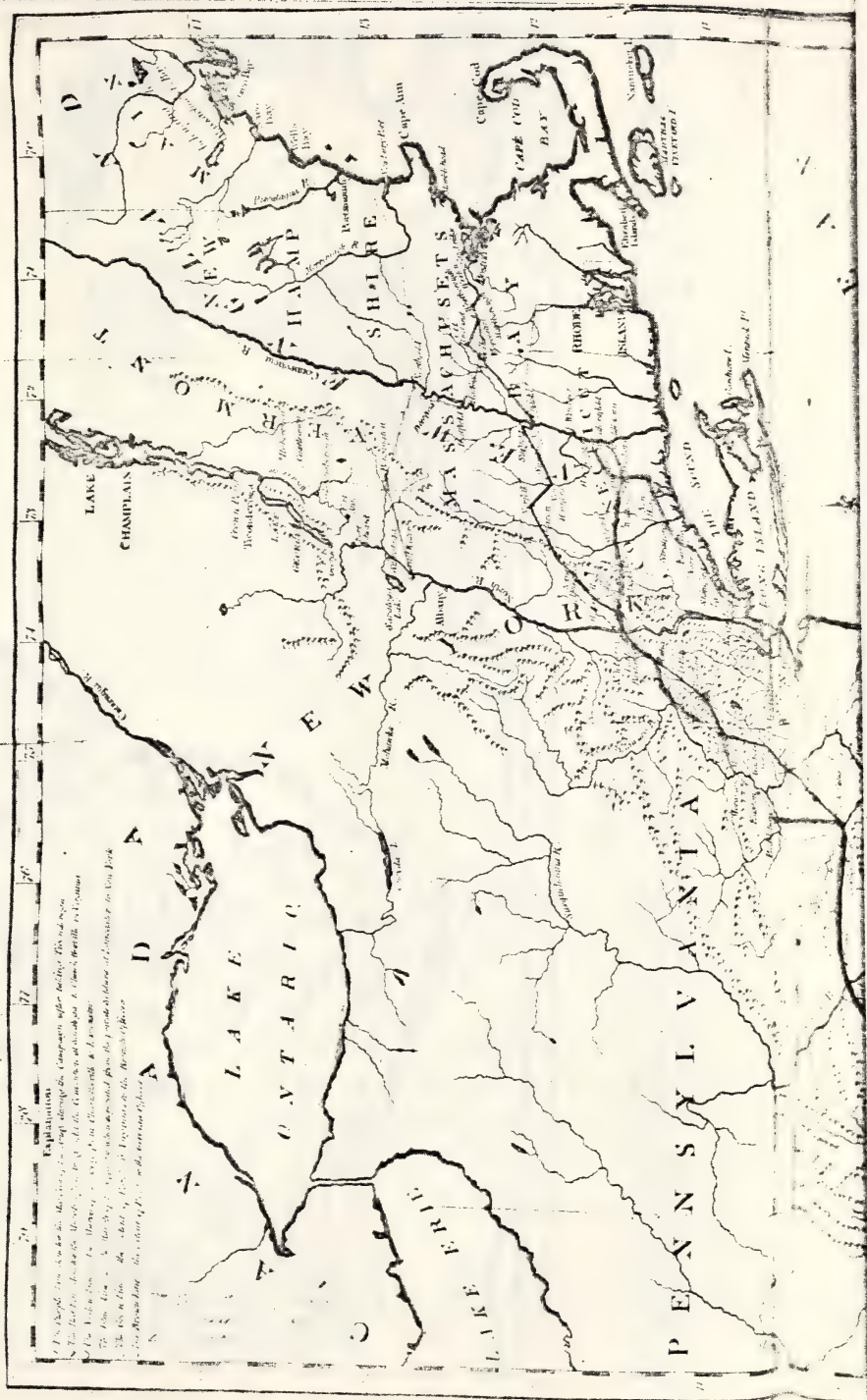
Somewhere about the year 1835 a Sunday school was started and one hundred and twenty-five dollars was raised and invested in books for the library of the school. Since then the school has been maintained continuously, though for a long time it was closed in the winter season.

The church records show that in its early history when its membership was small and its financial resources slender, that the pulpit was open for appeals for aid in home and foreign mission work and material aid was given, and since then regular contributions for these beneficent ends have been a part of the church work. In addition to the regular church offerings for missions, a ladies' missionary organization, of which the pastor's wife (Mrs. Sheppard), is president, is in a flourishing condition.

It might be added here that at least four brethren in the ministry have taken to themselves helpmates from the sisterhood of the church. These were the late Rev. John Reese, Rev. A. E. Finn, Rev. Theodore Heysham and Rev. W. G. Jones.

The officers of the church at this time are: Pastor, Rev. D. W. Sheppard; deacons, Milton I. Davis, Jacob C. Gregor, J. S. Smith and John Clark; clerk, J. S. Smith; treasurer, Horace Place; financial secretary Theodore Heyser; Sunday school superintendent, Wm. M. Rogers.

With regard to the future it must be said that during the last two or three decades the changes made by the passing years have tended to weaken rather than to strengthen the prospects of the church. We hope the tide may turn and the prospect brighten, but whether this be so or not, may a gracious God give grace and strength to the pastor and people of the dear old Lower Providence Baptist church, that they may have an abiding faith in God, serve him faithfully and leave with tranquility the results with him.





LIEUTENANT THOMAS AUBURY

Was an Officer in the British army, and among the captives of the Convention Troops—who marched from Cambridge, Massachusetts to Charlottesville, Virginia. The map shows their line of march southward through Pennsylvania and other states, passing through Philadelphia (now Montgomery) County, over Sullivan's Bridge, through Valley Forge, etc., in the fall of 1778.

THE PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA AND THE CONVENTION TROOPS

By Dr. W. H. Reed

On October 17, 1777, the British army under the command of General Burgoyne surrendered to the American army under General Gates, at Saratoga, New York. The surrender was arranged for under an agreement or convention specifying the terms of surrender. It was this agreement or convention entered into by these commanders that ever afterwards, in general parlance and in all official correspondence, these captives were known as "Convention" troops.

General Burgoyne's army was composed of British and German or Hessian regular soldiers, Canadians and American provincials loyal to the king, and Indians. This combined army in numbers amounted to eight thousand troops. The greater majority being British and Germans.

Immediately after the surrender the Canadians and Provincial soldiers were placed under parole and permitted to return to their homes. The Indians required no disposition for they already had deserted in a body. The English and German prisoners were grouped together according to their nationality, formed into divisions, and then under an American patrol, marched on a long and tiresome trip, and temporarily placed in barracks on Winter Hill, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, but four miles from the city of Boston. Here they were to await embarkation on ships for their homes in Europe. No vessel ever arrived in compliance with the terms of surrender. This default in agreement produced discord with these captives, and subsequently resulted in a breach and bad faith between Burgoyne and the United States Congress.

As a result of non-compliance with the stipulated agreement these captives were kept in prison quarters a whole year awaiting deliverance. Instead of being carried to their homes

in ships as promised; in the following year—in October, 1778, the American commander received orders from his government to place the captives under marching orders; to be removed to other quarters,—to a prison in Charlottesville, in the state of Virginia, where they could be better cared and provided for during the remainder of their captivity in America.

Among these captive troops was an English military officer, one Lieutenant Thomas Aubury by name, who served under General Burgoyne. He fell a prisoner of war to the American army with the rest of British captives at Saratoga. This Lieutenant had a very dear gentleman friend in England, whom he promised, before leaving home with the British army for America,—that he would keep him posted as to his whereabouts in the Provinces, note current events and such other matters that might be of interest. Consequently as opportunity offered he wrote a series of letters, these not only containing casual observations but much authentic history; character of the country through which they passed; with the doings, habits and customs of the people, etc.

After the close of the war Lieutenant Aubury's friends impressed upon him the importance of perpetuating these letters by publishing them and thereby making them accessible to the general reader.¹ He writes in the preface of the book "the letters were written for friendship, and never intended for publication." He however surrendered to their importunities and thus they have been preserved; and by the accidental discovery of these rare volumes we are now able to give of them that which are of most interest, and matters of a general and local nature.

The first letter leading us to the subject and locality that I quote particularly appeals to us, and from which I make abstracts, is found in Vol. II, pg. 223, known as Letter LVII, written at

Note 1. "Travels in Central North America giving a Panorama of the Habits and Peculiarities of Canada. New England. Also a story of the travel and doings of the army under General Burgoyne. From letters of Thomas Aubury, an officer with this army." Printed in Berlin, 1792. Ed.

2“Mystic, in New England,

Nov. 6, 1778.

“My Dear Friend:—

“I cannot impute any blame to you, but no letter has reached me for an age. Your friendship for me is so sincere, that agreeable to my first request on communicating our literary correspondence, you have no doubt answered all of my letters; all must be laid to my present situation, and the want of friends in New York, to send them to me. Many officers have received letters; and by our friend Captain B.—, who has a short epistle to you, I have the happiness to hear that you enjoy a perfect state of health, and that you altogether reside at the old family mansion in Norfolk (England). I do not claim promise of answering this, but wait until the next as it will be very uncertain where any letter will find me for the Congress have passed a resolve, to march the Convention army from the state of Massachusetts to Charlottesville, in the province of Virginia, where barracks are, and the troops can be more readily supplied with provisions.

“When this resolve of Congress was made known, every one was struck with amazement; but upon reflection, it certainly is obvious, that the views of Congress, by marching the men eight hundred miles in the depths of winter, would be the means of deserting in numbers, rather than endure such fatigue. General Washington has had the humanity to order wagons for the women and children; what adds to the distress to the soldiers, is their being so badly clothed, having only their jackets that were made from their coats in the winter, whilst in Canada; and what is still more mortifying, a cartel ship arrived but two days since from New York, with clothing for the army; however the men are to be supplied with shoes, shirts and stockings, and cloth leggings, and the rest to go round James river, in Virginia. General Phillips will ask no favors from General Heath, otherwise, I think, he could be so diverted of humanity, as to not to defer the march for

a week, during which time the men might be clothed ; all is now hurry and confusion, as the first division march on the 10th instant ; the army is to follow in divisions, the same as they did from Saratoga, (N. Y.), to Cambridge, Mass."

"Letter LVIII", Vol. II, pg. 231 follows "Sherwood's (Sherrard's) Ferry, upon the banks of the Delaware, Dec. 10, 1778.

My Dear Friend:—

"On leaving New England, I joined the regiment, just as they had crossed the Connecticut river, at Endfield; but in my way to this place, I and another officer, who accompanied me, had a very narrow escape of being sent to prison, for on traveling at night we mistook our road, and got into the town of Springfield,—which was out of our route laid down for us, and it is unfortunately the great arsenal of all military stores for the state of Massachusetts; happily for us, the landlord of the house we put up at was a friend of the government, who concealed us, and we were glad to get away before day-break, not but it could be clearly proved it was merely accidental; but these Americans will not harken to reason, and no doubt would have found people ready enough to swear, that we went there either as spies, or to destroy their stores."

Lieutenant Aubury's letter follows with an account of his trip southward through the town of Sharon, in the State of Connecticut; thence to North river, and then to the town of Fishkill on the banks of the Hudson river, and on through the State of New York, into Jersey, and through this State to Sherrard's Ferry, on the Delaware river. Resuming his letter he says:—

"Now we have passed the Delaware (river), the Pennsylvania militia are to guard us, and the brigades that escorted us through New York and the Jerseys, return to Washington's army, (now located in the middle of Jersey)."

The two succeeding letters of Lieutenant Aubury are written in and dated at Lancaster on succeeding days. The observations here made are descriptive largely of the country, its

people and their customs, through which these troops passed, between Sherrard's Ferry on the Delaware river and Lancaster city. Their contents being of a local nature are to us very interesting, instructive and entertaining.

"Letter LIX," Vol. II, pg. 249, I copy *in toto* :—

Lancaster, in Pennsylvania,

Dec. 16, 1778.

My Dear Friend :—

"We halt a day or two in this town, and I cannot so well employ my leisure time, as to give you a description of our march from the Delaware; we crossed the river in scows, which are flat bottomed boats large enough to contain a waggon and horses; they are a safe conveyance, and are mostly used to cross the rivers in this country; they are rowed with oars upon large rivers; but over a creek, which is about three miles from this town, called the Conestoga, they pull them across by means of ropes fastened on either shore.

"After you get over the Delaware (river), a new country presents itself, extremely well cultivated and inhabited; the roads are lined with farm houses, some of which are near the road, and some at a little distance, and the space between the roads and the houses, is taken up with fields and meadows; some are built of stone, two stories high, and covered with cedar shingles; but most of them are of wooden (logs), with crevices stopped with clay; the (bake) ovens are commonly built a little distance from the house, and under a roof to secure them against the weather.

"The farmers in Pennsylvania, and in the Jerseys, pay more attention to the construction of their barns than their dwelling houses. The buildings (barns) are nearly as large as a common country church; the roof very lofty, and covered with shingles, declining on both sides, but not very steep, the walls are about thirty feet; in the middle is the threshing floor, and above is the loft for corn¹ unthrashed; on one side is a stable, and the other a cow house, and the small cattle have their particular stables or styes; and at the

1—"Corn is the synonym for **wheat** among English farmers. Ed.

gabel end of the building are great gates, so that a horse and cart can go straight through; thus is the threshing-door, stables, hay-loft, cow-house, coach-house, &c., all under one roof.

"The Pennsylvanians are an industrious and hardy people,—they are most of them substantial, but cannot be considered rich, it being rarely the case with landed people. However they are well lodged, fed and clad, and the latter at any rate, as the inferior people manufacture most of their own apparel, both in linens and woollens, and are most industrious themselves—having but few blacks (slaves) among them.

"They have a curious method to prevent their geese creeping through broken enclosures, by means of four little sticks, about a foot in length, which are fastened crossways about their necks. You cannot imagine how extremely awkward they appear, though it is diverting enough to see them walk with this ornament; their mode of preventing horses from leaping over their inclosures (fences) is equally curious; they fasten around the horse's neck a piece of wood, at the lower end of which is a hook, which (hook) catching the railing, stops the horse just as he is rising to leap over; some indeed fasten the fore and hind foot together, which makes them walk slow; both of these methods are extremely dangerous to the horses.

"In New England they have a few hives of bees, but in this province (Pennsylvania), almost every farm house have seven or eight; it is somewhat remarkable they should be more predominant here, as all of the bees upon this continent were originally brought from England to Boston, about one hundred years ago; the bee is not natural to America, for the first planters never observed a single one in the immense tracts of woods they cleared, and what I think stands forth as most indubitable proof that it is not, the Indians, as they have a word in their language for all animals, native of this country, have no word for bee, and therefore they call them by the name of the Englishman's fly.

"On the high road from Philadelphia to this town, are milestones, which are the first I observed put up in this country; as to the other parts the inhabitants only compute the distance by guess. It was no little mortification that we were debarred seeing one of the first cities of America, (Philadelphia); we passed within twelve miles of it, and several of us made application to the commanding officers who escorted us, to grant permission for us to go into the city, assuring him we would upon our honor join the troops at night. He was a good natured man, and nearly complying with our request, but on a sudden said, he really could not, as Congress would be mightily displeased at it; however we consoled ourselves, that on our exchange, we may have an opportunity of seeing it.

"In the greatest of our march the inhabitants were making cider, for in almost every farm there is a press, though made in a different manner; some make use of a wheel made of thick oak plank, which turns upon a wooden axis, by means of a horse drawing it, and some have stone wheels, but they are mostly of the former.

"In traveling through Pennsylvania, you meet people of almost every different persuasion of religion that exists; in short, the diversity of religions, nations, and languages here is astonishing, at the same time, the harmony they live in is no less edifying, notwithstanding every one, who wishes well to religion, is hurt to see the diversity that prevails, and would, by the most soothing means, endeavor to prevent it; yet, when the misfortune once takes place, and there is no longer an union of sentiments, it is nevertheless glorious to preserve an union of affections, and certainly it must be highly pleasing to see men live, though of so many different persuasions, yet, to the same Christian principles, and though not of the same religion, still to the great end of all, the prosperity and welfare of mankind.

"Among the numerous sects of religion with which this province abounds, for there are churchmen, Quakers, Calvinists, (Reformed), Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists,

Menists (Mennonites), Moravians, Independents, Anabaptists (Tunkers), there is a sect which perhaps, you never heard of, called the Dumplers. This sect took its origin from a German (Conrad Beissel), who, weary of the world, retired to a solitary place, about fifty miles from Philadelphia, in order to give up his whole time to contemplation; several of his countrymen came to visit him in his retreat, and by his pious, simple and peacable manners, many were induced to settle near him, and in a short time adopted his modes, they formed a little colony, which they named Euphrates (Ephrata), in allusion to the river upon whose borders the Hebrews were accustomed to sing psalms.

"Their little city is built in the form of a triangle, and bordered with mulberry and appletrees very regularly planted. In the center of the town is a large orchard, and between the orchard and the ranges of trees that are planted round the borders, are their houses, which are built of wood (logs), and three stories high; in these every Dumper (Tunker) is left to enjoy his meditations without disturbance. These contemplative men, on the whole, do not amount to more than five hundred; their territory is nearly three hundred acres in extent; on one side is a river, on the other a piece of stagnant water, and on the other two are mountains covered with trees.

"They have women of their community who live separate from the men; they seldom see each other but at the place of worship, and never have meetings of any kind but for public business; their whole life is spent in labor, prayer and worship; twice every day and night they are summoned from their cells to attend divine service; as their religion, in some measure, resembles the Quakers, for very individual, if he thinks himself inspired, has a right to preach. The subjects they chiefly discourse upon are humility, temperance, charity and other christian virtues; never violating that day held sacred amongst all persuasions; they admit of a Hell and Paradise, but deny the eternity of future punishments. As to the doctrine of original sin, they hold it as

The first of these was the discovery of gold in California in 1848. This led to a great influx of people to the West, and the discovery of gold in Colorado in 1859 led to a similar influx. The discovery of gold in California was made by James W. Wicks, a man who had been a prospector in California since 1846. He discovered gold in a stream called the American River, and his discovery led to the discovery of gold in California by many other people. The discovery of gold in Colorado was made by James W. Wicks, a man who had been a prospector in California since 1846. He discovered gold in a stream called the American River, and his discovery led to the discovery of gold in California by many other people.

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impious blasphemy, together with every tenet that is severe to man, deeming it injurious to divinity. As they allow no merit to any but voluntary works, baptism is only administered to the adult; nevertheless, they think it so essentially necessary to salvation, as to imagine the souls of Christians are employed in the other world, in conversion of those who have not died under the light of the Gospel.

"Religion among the Dumplers, has the same effect as philosophy had upon the Stoics, rendering them insensible to every kind of insult; they are more passive and disinterested than the Quakers, for they will suffer themselves to be cheated, robbed and abused, without the least idea of retaliation, or even a complaint.

"Their dress is very simple and plain, consisting of a long white gown, from whence hangs a hood to serve the purpose of a hat, a coarse shirt, thick shoes, and very wide breeches, something resembling those that the Turks wear. The men wear their beards to a great length, some I saw were down to their waists; at the first sight of them I could not help comparing them to our ancient bards, the Druids, from their reverential appearance; the women are dressed similar to the men, excepting the breeches.

"Their life is very abstemious, eating no meats, not that they deem it unlawful, but not conformable to the spirit of Christianity; which they argue has an aversion to blood, and upon those grounds they subsist only on vegetables, and the products of the earth.

"They follow with great cheerfulness, their various branches of business, in some one of which, every individual partakes, and the product of their labor is deposited in one common stock, to supply the necessities of every individual; and by this union of industry, they have not only established agriculture and manufactures, sufficient to support this little society, but superfluities for the purpose of exchange for European commodities.

"Though the two sexes live separate, they do not renounce matrimony, but those who are disposed to it leave

the (this) city and settle in the country, on a tract of land which the Dumplers have purchased for that purpose; the couples are supported at the public expense, which they repay by the product of their labor, and their children are sent to Germany for education, without this wise policy, the Dumplers would be little better than Monks, and in the process of time annihilated.

"Although there are so many sects, and such a difference of religious opinions in this province, it is surprising the harmony which subsists among them; they consider themselves as children of the same father, and live like brethren because they have the liberty of thinking like men; to this pleasing harmony, in a great measure, is to be attributed the rapid and flourishing State of Pennsylvania, above all the other provinces. Would to Heaven that harmony was equally as prevalent all over the globe; if it was, I think you will acquiesce with me in opinion, that it would be for the general welfare of mankind."

In the second letter of Lieutenant Aubury, written at Lancaster, he gives an interesting description of Sullivan's Bridge, across the Schuylkill river at Valley Forge. The manner in which he writes of this structure, it must have more than ordinarily appealed to him. His description of it and the campground are most thorough and complete. It must have inspired him as very important. In fact, I believe all historians concede this to have been the first bridge of a substantial character ever erected over the Schuylkill river; and now, at this day, to us all, this is so interesting historically.

Vol. II, pg. 261.

Letter LX.

Lancaster, in Pennsylvania,

Dec. 17, 1778.

"In our way hither, we crossed the Schuylkill (river) over the bridge built by General Washington's army, when they were camped at Valley Forge. I imagine it was the intention of the Americans that this bridge should remain as a triumphal memento, for in the centre of every arch (span), is engraved in the wood, the name of the principal

General in their country; and in the middle arch was General Washington's with the date of the year; this bridge was built to preserve communication, and to favor retreat, in case they were compelled to quit their encampment.

"Our troops slept in the huts at Valley Forge which had been constructed by the Americans; and as we waited till late the next day for the delivery of provisions before we marched, I had a full opportunity to reconnoitre the whole camp: on the east and south sides were entrenchments, with a ditch six feet wide and three deep, the mound not four feet high, very narrow and easily to have been beat down with a cannon; two redoubts were also begun, but not completed; the Schuylkill was on the left and as I before observed, with a bridge across; the rear was mostly covered by an impassable precipice formed by Valley Creek, having only a narrow passage near the Schuylkill; this camp was by no means difficult of access, for the right was attainable, and in one part of the front the ascent was scarcely to be perceived, the defences were exceedingly weak, and this is the only instance I ever saw of the Americans having such slight works, these being such a six-pounder could easily have battered down; the ditches were not more than three feet deep, and so narrow, that a drumboy might with ease leap over.

"A Loyalist, at whose house I was quartered, at Valley Forge, and who resided there at the time Washington's Army was encamped, told me, that when General Washington chose that spot for his winter quarters, his men were obliged to build them huts with round logs; fill in the interstices with clay, and cover them with loose straw and dirt, were uncomfortable, as the shelter was not secure from the weather, where the men suffered exceedingly from the inclemency of the season; the camp disorder raged among them, the greater part of them in a manner were naked at the severe season of the year; many without shoes and stockings, and a very few, except the Virginia troops, with the necessary clothing; his army was wasting by sickness

that raged with extreme mortality in all different hospitals, which are no less than eleven, and without the essential medicines to relieve them; his army was likewise diminished by constant desertions in companies, from ten to fifty at a time, that at one period, it was reduced to four thousand men, and those with propriety could not be called effective. The horses from being constantly exposed to showers of rain and falls of snow, both day and night, were in such a condition that many of them died, and the rest were so emaciated as to be unfit for labor; had he been attacked and repulsed, he must have left behind all his artillery, for want of horses to convey it; in addition to all of these distresses, Washington had not in his camp, at any one time, a week's provision for man and horse, and sometimes he was totally destitute.

"The Loyalists greatly censured General Howe in suffering General Washington to continue in this dangerous and weak state from December to May, and equally astonished what could be the motive, that he did not attack, surround, or take by siege, the whole army, when the severity of the weather was gone—They expected in the months of March, April and May, they should hear of the camp being stormed or besieged.

"Certainly the situation of it favored either, for on the left was the Schuylkill that was impassable, but over the bridge (Sullivan's); on the rear lay Valley Creek with the precipice and narrow pass; on the right and front of it could be approached on equal terms; by posting two thousand men on a commanding ground, near the bridge on the north side of the Schuylkill, it would have rendered the escape of the enemy on the left impossible. Two thousand men posted on a like ground opposite the narrow pass, effectually prevented a retreat by the rear, and five or six thousand men, placed on the right and in front of his camp, would have deprived them of flight on those sides; the positions were such, that if any corps were attacked, they could instantly have been supported; under all these favor-

able circumstances, success was to be little doubted; but it would seem that General Howe was exactly in the same situation as General Burgoyne, respecting intelligence, obtaining none he could place a perfect reliance on.

"In fact, the Americans have a most decided superiority over us in this, as in that respect; our post and situations, nay, even secret marches, with their intentions, are made known to General Washington by the innumerable spies and secret enemies who came into our camp and lines under the specious character of Loyalists; it is quite the reverse with him, every man who enters his camp is known to some one or other as his army is composed of troops from every province.

"The Loyalists in Pennsylvania generally accuse General Howe of ungrateful conduct, in abandoning Philadelphia, after all the assistance they had given him and not having, during the winter, endeavored to dislodge General Washington at Valley Forge, suffering the enemy to harass and distress the Loyal inhabitants on every side of the British lines, destroying their mills, horses and cattle, imprisoning, whipping, branding and killing the unhappy people, devoted to the cause of their Sovereign, who, at every risque (risk), were daily supplying the army, navy, and loyal inhabitants within the lines, with every necessary and luxury the country afforded.

"Indeed the Loyalists of Pennsylvania are generally to be pitied, for they have been much persecuted since our troops evacuated Philadelphia, their loyalty is greatly abated, as they consider themselves made a sacrifice of by the conduct of General Howe; and are so exceedingly incensed and violent against him, they do not hesitate to say, that in ease and comfort, in the city of Philadelphia, he cared little for military fame and glory; that he neglected his duty to his King and country; that he neglected the interest and safety of the country he was sent to protect, and that his whole conduct was founded on private interest and ambition, you shall not know *my* sentiments until we meet.

"At a poor farm house I was quartered at, the night before we came into town (Lancaster), I was much surprised when it grew dark, to see the landlady bring in a couple of green wax candles, which at first we really took them to be, but lo! they were made from the berries of a tree, which is called tallow shrub, as they produce a kind of wax or tallow; the plant grows in England, and is known by the name of Candleberry tree.

There are many qualities to the candles made from these berries; they do not easily bend or melt in summer, as common (fat) candles; they burn better and slower, and when extinguished, do not smoke, but rather evaporate with an agreeable odor.

"The town of Lancaster is the largest inland town in America; it contains at least ten thousand inhabitants, chiefly Germans and Irish; there are some few good houses, and exclusive of those, it appears neither handsome nor agreeable; however, the markets are plentifully supplied with all sorts of provisions, and the cider is very excellent, the nearest to English of any I met in America.

"Most of the houses—before the door—have an elevation, to which you ascend by steps from the street, resembling a small balcony, with benches on both sides, where the inhabitants sit and enjoy the fresh air, and view the people passing; most of them have stoves similar to those of the Canadians.

"This town, before the commencement of these unhappy troubles, carried on a considerable trade with Philadelphia, and the frontier settlements; now it has scarcely sufficient to supply the inhabitants and the neighboring farms, it is really a distressing circumstance, to see such a populous, and no doubt, flourishing town, once a scene of bustling industry, now in a state of supineness, the shopkeepers lolling and smoking at their doors; their shops which were ever overflowing with all sorts of commodities scarcely contain more than Shakespeare's Apothecary, 'a beggarly account of empty boxes', unless indeed, some French flippery, which

the inhabitants will not purchase; the only sign of trade I could perceive, was among saddlers and gun-smiths, who were making material for the Continental army. This unhappy war has thrown the Americans into such a state, that it will be a century before they can recover from it.

“The town of Lancaster has no building of any consequence, except the Lutheran Church, which is only built of brick; the inside has a most magnificent appearance; the large galleries on each side, the spacious organ loft; supported by Corinthian pillars, are exceedingly beautiful, and there are pillars of the Ionic order, from the galleries of the roof. The altar-piece is very elegantly ornamental; the whole of the church, as well as the organ, painted white with gilt decorations, which has a very neat appearance; it greatly reminds me of the chapel of the Greenwich Hospital; the organ is reckoned the largest and the best in America, it was built by a German who resides about seventeen miles from Lancaster, he made every individual part of it with his own hands, he was near seven years in completing; the organ has not only every pipe and stop that is in most others, but it has many other pipes to swell the bass, which are of an amazing circumference, and these are played on by the feet, there being a row of wooden keys the performer treads upon. I do not ever recollect of seeing an organ of this construction, except those of the Savoy Chapel and St. Paul’s; in the latter they are shut up as the vibration of sound was found too powerful for the dome; but then they had only four or five wooden keys, whereas this organ has a dozen:—the man who showed the instrument played upon it, and the effect of these keys was astonishing; it absolutely made the building shake. It is the largest, and I think the finest I ever saw, without exception; and when you examine it, you wonder it did not take up the man’s whole life in constructing; to estimate its goodness and value, I shall only tell you it cost two thousand five hundred pound sterling; to you who are so musical, what a treat it would be for you to be here a few hours only, unless

indeed, you would think a few more not thrown away entirely, when allotted to."

Vol. 2, pg. 273.

Letter LXI.

Frederick-Town, in Maryland,

Dec. 25, 1778.

"After we left Lancaster, we crossed the Susquehanna, though a large, broad and beautiful river, it is extremely dangerous, on account of the rapidity of the current, and innumerable small rocks that just make their appearance above the surface; in crossing it we were not without our fears, for a scow, belonging to the brigade, in which Lord Forphincin, and a number of officers and soldiers of the twenty-first regiment was near being lost by striking one of these rocks; this river falls in the Chesapeake and forms the head of the vast water, which, though one of the largest and most beautiful rivers in America, is the least useful, as it is not navigable above twelve or fifteen miles the farthest for ships of any burden, and above that, scarcely so for canoes; the utility of the river would be great if the navigation; even for canoes was practicable, as the source of the east branch of this river is in the Mowhawk country, and from thence to the mouth of the Chesapeake, is near seven hundred miles.

"After we crossed the Susquehanna, we arrived at ¹Yorktown, which was sometime the seat of Congress; this is reckoned the second inland town in America; it is not near so large as Lancaster, but much pleasanter, being situated on Codorow creek (Codorus), a pretty stream, which falls into the Susquehanna; this town contains between two and three thousand inhabitants, chiefly Irish, intermixed with a few Germans; here was formerly more trade than in Lancaster and notwithstanding the troubles, it has still more the appearance of it; as we came into the town at four o'clock in the afternoon, and marched the next morning, you may easily imagine

I had but little time to make any particular observation; but on walking about, I saw the Court House and a few churches, which are very neat buildings; and I remarked the houses were much better built, and with more regularity than at Lancaster; of the two, though York is considerably less than the other, I should give it the preference for a place of residence.

"As I observed in a former letter, it was with a view and hope that the men would desert, that Congress marched us at this inclement season; numbers have answered their wishes, especially the Germans, who seeing in what a comfortable manner their countrymen live, left us in great numbers as we marched through New York, the Jerseys and Pennsylvania; among the number of deserters is my servant, who, as we left Lancaster ran from me with my horse, portmanteau and every thing he could take with him. I did not miss him till night, as I concluded he was with the baggage wagons; the next morning I obtained permission from the officer that escorted us, to return back in pursuit of him, as I had reasons to suppose he was going back to New England; in the afternoon on the other side of Lancaster (city) I met the first brigade of Germans, who were marching toward the town. Being acquainted with Colonel Mungen, who commanded, he enquired if I had orders for him, but telling him the purpose of my return, he informed me that he had met my servant that morning, just as they were going to march; he enquired of him how I did, and the reason of his returning, when the fellow said; "I was very well, and that I desired my compliments to him, if he should meet him, and that he was returning for a pair of saddle bags that he had left behind him on the road." After this I thought any pursuit of him was in vain, therefore returned back to my regiment which, by this time, had arrived in town.

"We have been greatly perplexed in our march through the different provinces, by the dollars being of such various value; in some it is only six shillings, in others seven, seven

and sixpence, and eight shillings. The provinces entertain little opinion as to the value of their neighbor's money, as it will not pass in the next province; the New York money will not pass in the Jersey's nor that of the Jersey's in Pennsylvania and so on. The Congress money is taken throughout the whole of them, but there are some provinces which deem their own money of more value than that of Congress, and take it in preference, not that they dare refuse the other, as it would be deemed high treason."

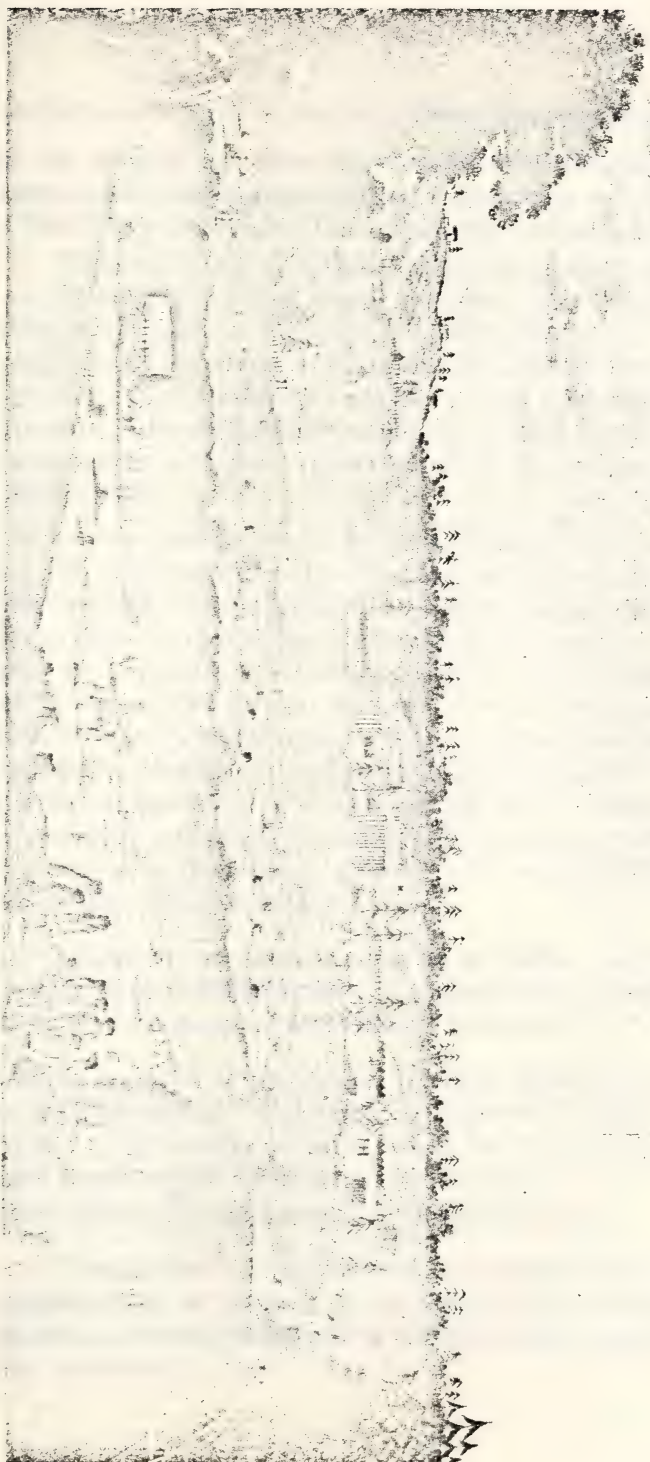
Lieutenant Thomas Aubury's letters for several years that follow, were written in and about Charlottesville, Richmond, and at other places in the Colony of Virginia, wherever his migrations chanced to be.

"In the year 1781, he, with a number of other prisoners, whom, to better their condition, and from fear of their recapture by the British army under Cornwallis,—the Americans had them removed to other quarters, nearby the town of Frederick-town, in Maryland. About this time his usual style of writing becomes somewhat melancholic probably due to the trend of provincial affairs. I quote:

"The troops (prisoners) have greatly diminished since we came to Frederick-town, not only by desertion and death, as numbers have fallen sacrifice to spirits, which are easily procured and at a cheap rate, as there are abundance of stills around the country, and the soldiers are in a continual state of intoxication. I need not tell you the inordinate passion soldiers have for liquors and what a difficult matter it is to restrain them from it."

Speaking of some of the soldiers on Colonel Beattie's plantation (where he was now staying). "Within this fortnight we have lost two in the most sad way, who, during the absence of the man that attended the still, drank the liquor hot out of the pipe, and next morning were found dead in their beds."

The next letter from which I quote is written at "East Windsor, Connecticut", and dated "Sept. 2, 1781". The prisoners were now being marched northward, and the con-



ENCAMPMENT of the CONVENTION ARMY

the Convention Army, after its capture by the British, at Charlottesville, Virginia, in the winter of 1778.

Showing the encampment of the British and Hessian prisoners (Convention Troops) at Charlottesville, Virginia, winter of 1778.

tingent he belonged to, came via. Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Here officers and men separated, and the former were returned to the New England provinces. From the above town he writes :

“Distressing and humiliating as the scene was, when we commanded our men to pile our arms, and abandon them on the plains at Saratoga, still much greater was the separation of the officers from the men at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It was extremely vexatious to be again disappointed visiting Philadelphia, especially in sight of it, but all entreaties to the Major who escorted us, for indulgence, were in vain.”

On his trip southward, through Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Aubury was sadly disappointed and suffered no little mortification that he could not visit Philadelphia, the excuse being given him by his officer in charge, that the American Congress was in session in the city and it would not be policy for him, a prisoner of war, to make a visit there at the time. He then buoyed his hopes with the prospect that upon his return trip northward this privilege would be granted ; thus again, to be disappointed, almost broke his heart, for he was so near the city. No opportunity ever after was offered him to gratify this desired privilege, so long as he remained in America. He reconciled himself to his fate, and thus writes :

“However, we received some compensation (for not passing through Philadelphia), in passing through Bethlehem, at which place is a settlement of Moravians.”

Before he takes up the subject of “The Moravians” he writes entertainingly of “the tavern at Bethlehem” which he had visited. This hostelry better known as the old “Sun Inn”, has been much written of by later day historians.

Now follows the interesting story of the Moravians :

“The landlord (of the Sun Inn) accompanied us to the superintendent, or the head of the society, who, with great politeness, showed us everything worthy of observation on this settlement.”

"The first place he conducted us to was the house of the single women, which is a spacious stone building, divided, similar to the (Sun) tavern, into large chambers, which are, after the German mode, heated with stoves. In these the young women pursue various domestic employments, and some are employed in fancy and ornamental work; in all of their apartments are various musical instruments. The superintendent of these young women conducted us to the apartment where they slept, which is a large vaulted room the whole dimension of the Inn buildings, in which were beds for every woman. The women dine in a large hall, in which is a handsome organ, and the walls adorned with scripture pieces, painted by some of the women who formerly belonged to the society. This hall answers the purpose of a refectory and chapel; but on Sundays they attend worship in the great church, which is a neat and simple building.

"The house of the single men is upon the same principle as that of the women; upon the roof of which is a belvedere from which you have not only a most delightful prospect, but a distant view of the whole settlement. We observed that the building was much defaced, which the superintendent informed us was occasioned by the Americans taking it from the young men and converting it into a hospital for the sick and wounded, after the battle of Germantown; and he added 'It is incredible what number perished for want of proper care and attention, and the hospital being ill supplied with drugs.' Pointing to an adjoining field, he said: "there lie buried near seven and eight hundred American soldiers, who died here during the winter."

"All manner of trades and manufactures are carried on in this place distinctly, and one of each branch; at these various occupations the young men are employed. Every one contributes his labor, and the profits arising from each goes to the general stock. These men receive no wages, but are supplied with all necessaries from the various branches of trade. They have no cares about the usual concerns of

life, and their whole time is spent in prayer and labor, their only relaxations being concerts, which they perform every evening.

"These people who are extremely shrewd and sensible, in a manner foreseeing the ill consequences attending a civil war, had before its commencement, laid in great quantities of European goods, which they sent to their various farms interspersed around the settlement.

"The Moravians are not only very assiduous, but ingenious too. They have adopted a sort of marriage, but from the manner of its celebration you cannot suppose that mutual tender endearments and happiness subsist between the parties united as with us. A young man feels an inclination to marry, which does not proceed from any object he is enamored with, for he never sees his wife but once before the ceremony takes place; it being contrary to the principle of their religion to suppose it is from the passions of nature, but merely to uphold the society; that it may not sink in oblivion. The young man communicates his inclination to the priest, asking of him a girl to make his wife, who consulting with the superintendent of the young women, she produces her who is next in rotation for marriage. The priest presents her to the young man, and leaves them together for an hour, when he returns. If they both consent, they are married the next day. If there is any objection, both of their cases are very pitiable—but especially the woman's, as she is put at the end of the list, which amounts to near sixty or seventy; nor does the poor girl stand the least chance of a husband till she arrives again at the top, unless the man feels a second inclination for marriage, for he never can obtain any other woman than the one with whom he had the first interview. This, I am induced to think, was the reason of there being such a number of old women among the single ones. Thus you see, my friend, that marriage and its inexpressible enjoyments, are not the results of passions, but a mere piece of mechanism, set to work by chance, and stopt alone by necessity.

"Where two parties meet and are united in marriage, a house is provided for them by the society of which there are great numbers of them around the town; very neat habitations, with pleasant gardens. Their children of either, at the age of six, are taken from them, and placed in the two seminaries, consequently they can have little affection for them. When either of the parties die; if the woman, the man returns to his apartments of the single men; and if the man, the widow retires to the house that is built for that purpose.

"The religion of the Moravians resembles more that of the Lutherans than the Calvinists; in one point it greatly differs from both, by admitting music and pictures in their place of worship. Prayer constitutes almost a third of their employment; for exclusive of the daily public devotions in the great church, they attend service in their own chapels morning, noon and night.

"Setting aside their ridiculous mode of entering into the marriage state, and which to them is of little moment, I could not but reflect:—if content was in this life—they enjoy it. Far from the bustle of a troublesome world, living in perfect liberty, each one pursuing his own inclinations and ideas, and residing in the most delightful situation imaginable, which is so healthy, that they are subjected to few, if any, disease.

"As want is a stranger, so is vice. Their ignorance of the refined elegancies of life, precludes any anxiety or regret that they possess not wealth to enjoy them. Nevertheless they possess what many are entire strangers to, who are surrounded with what are termed blessings, those true and essential ones—health and tranquility of mind; and that you may ever enjoy them, though no Moravian, in a high degree of refinement, is the sincere wish of yours, etc."

Another letter follows to his friend from "Hardford" Connecticut; this was followed by several more letters written from New York, and all with his usual vim and interest. The second letter from New York, dated October 30, 1781, was written just

as he takes passage on the ship "Swallow Packet" for England. I must quote from this, his parting opinions and conclusions on America; her war for freedom and separation from the mother country:

"As this is the last letter you'll receive from me in America, permit me, before I bid final farewell to it, to make some reflections on this unfortunate contest. Although America, through France and her naval power, may gain independence, she will find in what an awkward predicament she has involved herself, and how convulsed the provinces must be for a length of years. As a new state she must maintain or establish her public character, and is bound, by every tie of policy, to desert her allies. Alas, deluded Americans! When too late, you will repent your rashness. Let me impartially ask the most sensible among them, when the Independence is established, will they possess that freedom and liberty as under the English government? If their answer is impartial, they must declare, 'certainly we shall not; but in a few years we may.' That period, I am afraid, is at a great distance. "Much indeed, are they entangled in the cabals of a French court, which will, sooner, or later, not only endeavor to enslave them in reality, but dispossess them of their southern provinces. It is not without just grounds I assert, ere a half century elapses, America will be suing for that protection from the mother country, which she has so ungratefully despised, to screen her from the prosecution and tyranny of France. They are conscious of being happy before this unfortunate Revolution, and feel they are no longer so; they must inevitably regret the change in sullen silence, or, if they have anything like spirit left, rouse into arms again."

I feel I must repeat Lieutenant Aubury's prophesy: "Alas, deluded America! When too late you will repent your rashness." If our good-meaning Englishman, in flesh, was privileged to return to this world at this day and see most of the great European nations at war and unhappy with one another—I wonder if he would not be surprised at America's unique and exalted po-

sition. Is there an American today who repents the release, liberty and freedom of the American provinces from the British yoke? Our ancestors who sacrificed almost everything for liberty and freedom from Great Britain, laid the foundation for the greatest nation on the earth, whose wonderful resources, progress and advancement are the wonder and amazement of the rest of the world: I am thankful to say to our departed friend, it has, as a new nation, been able, at all times, to "maintain" and "establish her public character."

If our provinces had remained dependencies of the British government, and had been given the liberal rule that Canada enjoys, no prophets could have foretold where we might have been today. To have remained shackled and trodden down, our liberties and growth would never have been possible. Fortunately our "entanglements with the cabals of the French courts" never materialized to our discomfort; and America has been left to her own free way; and, as yet, has had no reason for "regret in sullen silence."

Among the Hessian prisoners who fell captive to the American troops at Saratoga, New York, were the officers-General Riedesel and Lieutenant Du Roi, these with Lieutenant Aubury, were held as such, by the Americans, from 1777 until their exchange in 1781; some of the prisoners were not released until the signing of the treaty of peace in 1783. These German officers, as Lieutenant Aubury states, were marched with the other captives, first, from Saratoga, N. Y., to Cambridge, Mass.; and a year later from Cambridge to Charlottesville, Virginia. Both German officers kept a record of these marches, and of the daily movements and doings of the troops, and such other events of interest as prisoners of war, not in letters as Lieutenant Aubury had done—but in diaries and journals. Fortunately, these have been preserved too, and at this day are extremely interesting to us, particularly those parts of their record descriptive of our section of the country through which they passed; especially that part of their march while under the escort of the Philadelphia and Bucks County militia:—from Sherrard's Ferry on the Delaware river to Taneytown, Maryland.



View of the West Bank of the Hudson, taken from Mill Water, upon which the Army under the command of Lt. General Burgoyne, Sept. 1777.

(Showing General Burgoyne's position.)

Headquarters of the British, now the site of the Hudson River, New York.

Showing the encampment of the British and Hessian troops on the banks of the Hudson river in New York State, but a short time previous to their defeat by the Americans at Saratoga, Sept. 1777.

The abstracts from the journals of the Hessian officers Riedesel and DuRoi, with those from the letters of the British officer Aubury, neither one is as complete nor interesting without the other, although the writers journeyed largely the same territory on their march, but on different days; and naturally their observations were not the same.

We learned from Lieutenant Aubury's letters, that the prisoners, on leaving Cambridge for the South, were separated into six divisions, which were thereafter kept distinct and apart. Three of these were English captives, and the other three were German Hessian captives. Each division marched from Cambridge and Winter Hill on different days, and were guarded by an escort of American soldiers. Many of the captive officers had their wives and families with them. The women and children, for their convenience and comfort, were provided with wagons by the provisional American government. Fortunately, these captive officers possessed money, and while on the march, paid most of their own expenses; owned their own horses which they rode; had servants to do the work and care for them, etc. Wagons were also provided for carrying camping outfits; some provender, ammunition supplies, baggage, etc. The captive soldiers of the ranks did not fare as well as the officers, for they marched afoot: carried their individual baggage; were clad in all sorts of dress and uniforms; they became dirty and bedraggled; and suffered all sorts of wants and inconveniences. It is said, that the aggregation formed a motley combination; and, as they trudged along through the settlements,—became an object of curiosity, compassion, pity, wonder and amazement; and at times produced no little concern, annoyance, and sometimes were the cause of fear and terror to the neighborhoods through which they passed. The American escort was lax with their prisoners; the slipshod manner in which they traveled gave them liberties, and to a large extent they roamed and strayed as they pleased. So long, however—as the prisoners did not desert in too great numbers at one time, their guards were indifferent, and gave them little or no concern. Particularly was this so with the Hessian troops among the German inhabitants, many

of them deserting to, and among their countrymen, and in time quite a number of them became permanent settlers in the States and good American citizens, and from these, many of us are descended.

General Riedesel and Lieutenant Du Roi, it appears, were not in the same division of prisoners on this march; and, as they passed through this locality, did so on different days. Condition of the roads, quarters for camping, depots of supplies, and for other conveniences and comforts, changes had to be made in their routes of march; but their main objective points were the same, but we find their observations are different.

In the "Memories and Letters and Journals of Major General Frederick A. Riedesel"¹—Vol. II, pg. 57, it reads:—

"On the second of November (1778) (General) Phillips issued directions for the march (of British and German prisoners), in conformity to (General) Heath's orders to the commanders. According to this, we, the British prisoners are to leave Rutland, and the German prisoners,—Winter Hill,—in six divisions, and attended by an American escort (of soldiers) * * * *.

Note:—General Adolph de Reidesel came to America in command of the Brunswick Mercenaries loaned by the Elector of Hesse to the British and was with Burgoyne and surrendered with him after the battle of Saratoga, in October 1777. He was a prisoner of war until exchanged in 1780, and was then given command of the English troops holding Long Island. His wife Madam de Riedesel with their children came to Canada with the General and they accompanied him throughout his campaign and while in the American camps. During the battle of Saratoga, Madam de Riedesel and her children took refuge in a cellar filled with other non-combatants and the wounded from the battle. In a covered wagon with her children, she lived and traveled with the army troop trains in the campaign in which her husband took part, and after the surrender of Burgoyne she and her children accompanied the General into the American lines and was received with the most courteous treatment and respect. From Boston they were sent to Virginia. The trip lasted twelve weeks and their experience was full of sickness, hardship and want—even to the begging of bread. When the General was exchanged the family moved to New York where their daughter "America" was born and who became the ancestress of Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the U. S. during the early part of the World War. General de Riedesel was therefore, the great-great-grandfather of the Count von Bernstorff. (From the American Review of Reviews.—Ed.)

"On the 10th of December we reached a place called Changewater, (in New Jersey). On the 11th at Pittstown, (N. J.) and on the 12th at Everett (N. J.) (Everettstown), near Sherrard's Ferry on the Delaware (river) * * * *.

Hitherto, the roads over which these troops traveled were beyond description, often indeed, almost impassable. In the best of weather they were miserable, but now they have been rendered a hundred times worse by continual rain and snow. The shoes of the soldiers frequently stuck fast in the mud, rendering marching extremely difficult. General Riedesel did the best to come up with his troops, but was unsuccessful. The greatest trouble was experienced in raising a sufficient number of horses to do the work. Madame Riedesel, with her children, were in constant danger, and the English adjutant,—Edmonson, often dismounted to assist her in preventing her carriage from being upset.

On the 13th of December, the travelers arrived at Sherrard's Ferry, and notwithstanding the exertion of the American commander,—Major Douglass, who collected the needed number of horses, they were forced to remain here until the 18th. The same experience attended General Phillips who started from Cambridge on the first of December with the intention of catching up with General Riedesel, for Colonel Trump was obliged to return, in a few days to Boston. Then Riedesel requested General Washington to send him another officer in place of Colonel Trump.

On the same day, (13th), the first of the German troops cross the Tohickon River (creek), and halted at Plumstead, in Bucks County, Penna. On the 14th they reached Montgomery township, in Philadelphia (now Montgomery) county. On the 15th they camped in New Providence township; and on the 16th they crossed the Schuylkill river, (over Sullivan's bridge), at (near) Norrington, to Valley Forge. Here a few days rest was given them in the abandoned encampment of Washington's army and they utilized the huts for shelter and repose. On the 17th, the march was continued to Salisbury (Sadsbury) Chester County. On the 19th they crossed the

Brandywine (creek) to Laycock (Leacock) township. (Lancaster County). Then in boats they crossed the Conestoga river (creek) to Lancaster where, on the 20th, they had another day's rest. Again the Journal recites:

"Maryland, as far as regards cultivation is very similar in appearance to Pennsylvania, although it is far behind the latter. The country of the Potomac is very pretty and fertile. The German and English hereabouts is in the same proportion. There are, perhaps, a few Tories in the province but they are not allowed to manifest their feelings openly. Fredericktown is a pleasant inland city."

Madam Riedesel, the wife of General Frederick A. Riedesel, with her three children, two servants, and baggage possessions, accompanied the captive soldiers on their long trip from Cambridge to Charlottesville, thus covering a distance of over 750 miles. She, like her husband,—kept a sort of journal, wrote letters, and made record of events of the trip; and to read these, are interesting, for in them is given her trials, tribulations and the many little contentions she was made to endure and suffer, while on this long and trying journey. She had advantages over many of the other officers wives and families, in her conveyance, but traveled the same roads and endured the same trials and privations as the rest of the party, and at times, possibly suffered worse. She, instead of riding in one of those heavy non-spring wagons furnished by the Americans, possessed her own family carriage, it having some sort of straps or springs, and these, to some extent—relieved her of the heavy knocking and jolting that the other women suffered on the lumbering wagons jolting over the rough roads in the procession.

The women as well as the men had to share exposure, insufficient and improper food and lack of comforts and protection—except such that could be meagrely found by the wayside. Taverns and homes gave comforts and food whenever possible, but when this big soldier contingent meandered along, it took all neighborhoods by storm; the community simply became swamped and deluged with demands, and all business was confused and paralyzed.

On the 21st, the march was resumed to Hampton (Hempfield township) ; and on the 22nd, the Susquehanna (river) was reached and crossed near Wright's Ferry, and quarters for the night taken at Yorktown, York County. On the 23d, McAlisters-town (Hanover) was reached, where the 24th was spent as a day of rest. On the 25th they reached Pater's-Little (Littlestown), and the last town on the itinerary in Pennsylvania. On the 26th, the boundary was crossed, (between the provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland), and the troops quartered at Taney-Town (Taneytown) Maryland. General Riedesel's journal continues :

"The province of (New) Jersey is, as a whole, populous, and as well cultivated as that portion of New York through which we passed. A great many Irishmen have settled here, whose natural abilities are pretty fair, though they do not equal the Germans in economy and in the cultivation of the soil. Nor do they by any means come up to the Herrn-hutters, who forty years since, settled a few places, among which is Bethlehem in the Province of Pennsylvania, near the New Jersey line (twelve miles distant). Occasionally one sees beautiful settlements belonging to the Quakers. So far as we have had an opportunity of judging the sentiments of the people, we should say that, perhaps, not one-fifth of them are loyal to the cause of the king. The inhabitants of this province are very likely in fear of the stronger party, the army, (Americans) being quartered among them. Many have left their property and enlisted in the royal army.

"The state of Pennsylvania may be said to be as well cultivated and populated as the best German province. Beside her chief city Philadelphia, it has many large and beautiful cities, and is the corn magazine for the middle provinces of North America. Inasmuch it has been made rich by industry, its prosperity is an honor to the German nation. The raising of cattle is extensively carried on. Accordingly, Pennsylvania furnishes most of the teams for the army. It has very good linen and woolen factories. In

the manufacture of linen and leather, the inhabitants are independent of Europe. There is, however, as yet, a want of dye-houses. The inhabitants are peaceable and temperate and have a great liking for agriculture and mechanical trades. This latter fact, may, perhaps, be owing to the principals of the different religious sects. The Quaker, for instance, is not allowed to go to war, unless he renounces his doctrine. The same is true of the Dunkers or Anabaptists. The province is full of these two sects. The Reformed-Dutch and the Lutherans are the only ones who can be had for the militia. The others, however, are obliged to pay a militia fine for non-attendance to drill duty. The inhabitants of both sexes are not as good looking, nor of a pretty form, as those of New England. The Royal party is strong but their opposition to the wigs (whigs) is of not much account, as their religion forbids them to act in a hostile manner. Our troops were received in some of their homes far too well, as we knew to our sorrow. (Because some of the Germans, as a consequence—deserted.)”

Prejudice toward these prisoners from the Americans in some cases was hard to overcome. Madam Riedesel, in her letter of them—speaks of this. Some of this resentment was amusing; in others it was exasperating, and in some cases it was pathetic. By some of the German inhabitants a strong antipathy existed for the Hessian, to such an extent, that, at times, it was bitter and revengeful. The madam at one time pleading with one of these for food for her hungry family of children, met with rebuff and scorn, and the angry woman shouted at her:

“Starve, you should be made to suffer. You of the same blood, should sell yourselves for English gold, and for this you came here to fight us; we are fighting for our liberty, and now you people come here and fight against us. We have no use for you.”—We proceed with her story:—

“It was in the month of November, 1778, that we received the order to go to Virginia. My husband, fortunately found a pretty English wagon, and bought it for me, so that, as before, I was able to travel easily. My little

Gustiva had entreated one of my husband's adjutants, Capton Edmonson,—not to leave us on the way. The confiding manner of the child touched him, and he gave us his promise and he faithfully kept it. I always traveled with the army, and often over impassible roads. The Captain who was very strong and always at hand, sprang from his horse at every dangerous place, and held our wagon. Our old yager, Rockel, who was with me and much delighted with this assistance, as he was very much fatigued, often sat quietly on his box and contented himself by crying "Captain." Instantly he was down from his horse.. I did not like him to use such freedom; but it amused the good Captain so much that he begged me not to notice it. I had always provisions with me, but carried them in a second small wagon. As this could not go as fast as we, I was often in want of everything. One day we came to a pretty little place but our supply wagon not having been able to follow us, we could not endure our hunger any longer. Observing a quantity of butcher's meat in the house in which we put up, I begged the hostess to let me have some. 'I have,' said she, 'several kinds. There is beef, veal and mutton.' My mouth watered already in prospect. 'Let me have some,' I said, 'I will pay you well for it.' Snapping her fingers almost under my nose, she replied, 'You shall not have a morsel of it. Why have you come out of your land to kill us, and waste our goods and possessions? Now you are our prisoners; it is therefore our turn to torment you.' 'See,' rejoined I, 'these poor children, they are almost dead with hunger.' She remained inflexible. But, when finally, my three and half year old daughter, Caroline, came up to her, seized her by the hand, said to her in English, 'Good woman, I am very hungry.' She could not longer withstand her; she took her into a room and gave her an egg. 'No,' said the good little girl, 'I still have two sisters.' At this the woman was touched and gave her three eggs, saying, "I am just as angry as ever, but I cannot withstand the child." She then became more gentle, and offered me bread and milk. I made

tea for ourselves. The woman eyed us longingly, for the Americans love it very much; but they had resolved to drink it no longer, as the famous duty on the tea had occasioned the war. This mollified her completely, and she begged me to follow her into the kitchen, where I found the husband knawing at a pig's tail, while his wife, to my great satisfaction, brought out of the cellar a basket of potatoes. When she came back he reached out to her his tid-bit. She ate some of it, and gave it back to him in a little while, when he again began to feast upon it. I saw this singular mutual entertainment with amazement and disgust; but he believed hunger made me begrudge it of him, and he reached out to me the already knawed tail. What should I do? Throw it away, and not only anger his feelings, but lose my loved basket of potatoes? I accordingly took it, pretended to eat it, and quietly threw it into the fire. They gave me the potatoes, and I made a good supper off them with excellent butter. But besides this, they moved us into three pretty rooms with good beds. Later on, continues Madam Riedesel, 'we stopped at the home of a German, where we were well lodged and well fed. The old man, it seemed, was the son of a coachman who had been in the service of Count Gortz in Germany. In his twelfth year, his father on one occasion chastized him on account of some roguish prank. Thereupon, he resolved to run away; and chance led him to London. Servants at that time were often sent to the American colonies, and he was also sent over with one of these companies. As his lucky star would have it, he fell into the hands of a kind master, who, taking a fancy to him, had him well educated, and, after some years of service, gave him some land to cultivate, as was customary in this country, after he had served out an apprenticeship. He was very active and industrious, and soon found himself in a position to take a lease of it from his master. When, finally, he observed how everything prospered under his hands, he gave him his daughter for a wife. The man had nine sons who were also farmers, and the only thing that disturbed his happiness was the thought of hav-

ing left his father, to whom, he often sent money. As he knew the Riedesel family were neighbors and friends of Gortz, he took good care of us, and was exceedingly grieved when we are again set out on our journey. At another time we had our quarters for the night at the house of Colonel Howe, to whom I thought I was paying him a compliment by asking him if he was a relative of the English General. 'God forbid,' answered he—much affronted, 'He is not worthy of it.' They said this General Howe was a brave man. When he was not in the field, (army), but at home, he ploughed his acres, and busied himself with his household affairs. He had a daughter fourteen years old, pretty, but of wicked disposition. As I was once sitting with her before a good chimney fire, she gazed at the glowing coals, and cried out, 'Oh, if I only had the King of England here, with what satisfaction I could cut his body to pieces, tear out his heart, dissect it, put it upon these coals and consume it.' I looked at her with horror, and said, 'I am almost ashamed to belong to a sex that is capable of taking such pleasure.' I never have been able to forget this detestible girl; and I am glad to get away from this house, although in other respects we were well treated.

"Before we crossed the Blue Mountains, we were forced to make a still further halt of eight days, that our troops might have time to collect together again. In the meantime such a great quantity of snow fell, that two of our servants were obliged to go before my wagon on horseback in order to make a path for it. We passed through a picturesque portion of the country, which however, by reason of its wildness inspired us with terror. In times we were in danger of our lives while going along these break-neck roads; and more than all of this we suffered from cold, and what was still worse, for lack of provisions."

One Lieutenant August W. Du Roi was an officer in Prince Frederick's regiment of captive Hessians at Saratoga. Du Roi kept a journal of this tour, written in German, and likewise it was translated into the English language and published. It is

far more complete and comprehensive in its daily records than that of General Riedesel. The journal of the Lieutenant is particularly interesting, in that portion of the story, depicting the trip from Sherrard's Ferry on the Delaware river to Taneytown, Maryland. His battalion was under a separate escort and marched on different days. His journal gives in greater detail a description of Sullivan's bridge, the Valley Forge encampment, and of the country through which they passed. Then encampments were mostly in a variety of towns, for they traveled many different roads on the journey. He writes:

"1778, Dec. 10, (New Jersey). marched 14 miles, (from) Endores Forniss (Andover Furnace). We had a dreary march. It rained and snowed continuously and the roads were bad. We marched to Haketstown (Hackettstown) a small place.

"Dec. 11th, 12 miles. On the 11th we went on to Change-water ironworks, where our quarters were miserable.

"Dec. 12, 14 miles, to Pittstown, a small city, half of the division got quarters at Quakertown, (N. J.) where only Quakers live.

"Dec. 13, 14½ miles. We were unable to cross the Delaware river because the water was too rough. We staid on this (N. J.) side in a small place called Everitt (Everettstown), and in some other houses. The province of New Jersey is very hilly and woody, and is little populated. It has good pastures, corn fields and orchards. There are also a good many people here who take sides with the King, and who are therefore badly treated. The inhabitants are industrious but poor. They have suffered too much from the war.

Dec. 14th, 16½ miles. We crossed the Delaware river at Scharrot's (Sherrard's) Ferry. The river here is about half mile wide; the banks are very high and beautiful. We marched on good even roads to the township of Hilltown, (Bucks County).

"Dec. 15th, 8 miles. The township of Montgomery and North Wallis (North Wales), (Philadelphia County),

where we met many Quakers. I was obliged to give up my horse, which I had brought from Boston. It had been used too much and had been worn out. I had to buy another one. Some of the officers went from here to Philadelphia. (An indulgence given these German officers, by their guards, that some of the officers in the British division did not receive, and Lieutenant Thomas Aubury was one of these).

"Dec. 16th, 13 miles. We crossed over the Schuylkill river on the Sullivan Bridge, which is 228 paces long and rests on nine wooden pillars. The current is very swift, on account of which fact many stones had to be sunk to keep the pillars in place. Near the Schuylkill are the sheds where the army of General Washington had been stationed (camped) during the winter of 1777 called Washington. (sic.) These huts,—about 3000—are built in lines, and are made of beams covered (plastered) with glue (clay). The place is fortified with lines and batteries, making the camp 'insuperable.' These huts had been built in three weeks, and the camp looks like a badly built town. It is remarkable that the army could stand these quarters for a whole winter without many of the necessitise of life, as shoes and stockings, etc. We marched to (through) Norrington and (to) Wally (Valley) Forge, not far from (to) these huts. The whole line had a day of rest on December 17th, and a change was made (at Sherrard's Ferry), in our escorts, to militia of Pennsylvania. * * *

"Dec. 18th, 16 miles. We marched 7 miles without an escort. Then an old Colonel appeared, who had a letter of recommendation to me. He asked me to tell him for 'Heaven's sake', what he was expected to do. He confessed at the time that he did not know anything about military service, and he was willing to do anything I would tell him, so that no complaint would be made. We marched to Downing's or Milltown (Downingtown) on the big route (pike) to Lancaster. On Dec. 19, (16½ miles), we crossed the Brandywine river (creek), and went to East Caln

(township), in the county of Chester, where we found a well cultivated country.

"Dec. 20th, 17 miles. Across the Conastoga creek, one quarter of an English mile wide. The water being very deep, the troops were taken to the other side in wagons, and from there to the town of Lancaster. Here the men received quarters in well built barracks, two stories high, while the officers stayed in town. Lancaster has about 1000 houses; most of them built of stone in the best state, 4 or 5 stories high. In the front of the houses is a side walk made of brick for pedestrians. This is kept very clean. The place has five churches with steeples, one of the churches is built entirely of brick and is a magnificent building. Inside it has decorations and an organ. The clergyman is a man called Helmuth, born in Helmstadt, a very nice and educated gentleman. The greatest part of the inhabitants are Germans, who have kept their language and customs, but speak English also. All sorts of artisans are there, and especially many merchants. All things are very high, for instance one bottle of wine 6rth, one dinner $\frac{3}{4}$ rth etc. The inhabitants are very wealthy. They came as poor people from all parts of Germany. The houses are very clean inside, and the way of living exactly like that in Germany. Our hopes of being received in this town by our countrymen in a hospitable manner, were cruelly deceived. Most of them had to be forced by the escort to let the officers have room in their houses. They behaved altogether very mean to us. However, I must say, that there were nice ones among them. On the whole, we were ashamed of being Germans, because we never had met so much meanness in one spot from our countrymen.

"Dec. 21st, we had a day of rest. The first division (of Hessians) which was still here—departed. It was very cold and froze very hard these days.

"Dec. 22nd, 10 miles. We marched to the Susquehanna river which we were unable to cross on account of the stormy weather. We took our quarters on this side of

the river in Hampton (Hempfield) township. The river at Wright's Ferry is $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide, and full of little islands and cliffs, which prevent vessels from coming up. High and low tide can be noticed 25 miles from here. The current is so swift that it is difficult to cross, and impossible when the weather is bad, although it has no great depth, and ground can be reached with poles at many places.

"Dec. 23d, we crossed the Susquehanna in big, flat boats like those on the Delaware river. The oars was fastened to the boat with irons. It took the first division from 8 o'clock to twelve to reach the other side. We marched through plain and well cultivated country to Yorktown (York), a place similar to Lancaster, with German inhabitants. The town is not quite as big, and there are only two Dutch-Reformed, and one English church here. The Anabaptists, of which there are many, also have a chapel. The city has about 500 houses, but little ground, and the inhabitants make their living mostly by trade. At night it snowed very hard and froze hard. It was impossible to find quarters in this city of our respected countrymen (Germans). Every one refused to take us in, and even outside of the town, nothing could be found. This compelled most of our poor men to camp out in the woods, although it was very cold. It really does no credit to the character of these Germans; that our countrymen were the only ones who treated us mean and tried at the same time to get something out of us and to cheat us. They were also very rude.

"Dec. 24th, 18 miles. The division marched to Hanover or McAllisters-Town where our regiment received quarters. The rest of the men, in groups of 5 to 16 men were quartered in the houses. The city was called after a man called McAllister, who founded the place. The man receives a tax of 15 shillings a year for each acre. There are about a 100 nice houses and one Lutheran and one Reformed church. The inhabitants are mostly Germans. They received us well, indeed, which reconciled us a little with our countrymen.

"Dec. 25. We had a day of rest and all the German maidens came to a ball given by us and danced with our officers in spite of it being Christmas and a holiday.

"Dec. 26, 7 miles. It had snowed so much all night that the roads became very bad. As we were unable to go as far as Tawny-Town (Taneytown) we took quarters in Little Pieters-Town or Peters-borough (Littlestown), a little town of fifty houses, which were very plain and poor. This place has been in existence only for 9 or 10 years. Not far from here is the border of the province of Pennsylvania.

"Pennsylvania is a flourishing state, not very hilly. It has good soil for wheat, rye, etc. There are also good pastures. It has the most beautiful estates, and almost all homes in the city as well as in the country are built of brick. All of the houses are fine and big, also the barns and stables. There is no other country with so many beautiful houses. The inhabitants are also mostly Germans, and there are quite a number, who cannot even understand English, let alone speak it. They are very industrious and consequently rich. Their estates look very prosperous. However, they do not live extravagantly, on the contrary they are inclined to gather more riches. The great part of them are Quakers and Anabaptists, or they belong to one of the many other sects found in America. All of these sects are not much thought of by the other inhabitants of America, because they refuse to go to war or carry arms. The Quakers live very well, but do not care to associate with the other people. Men as well as women dress plainly, choose, however, the finest and best material, being magnificently dressed in this way. They are very kind to strangers, and we have good reason to be pleased with them, as they received us always kindly. We found many nice, good girls among the women, who were in many ways not so shy as others. Almost all of the Quakers are wealthy people, who never let anyone belonging to their sect be reduced to poverty. However, they expel every one from their congregation who does anything against their principles, even if the crime commit-

ted is not a religious crime. They look out for their interest a good deal, and allow Quakers to share their profits.

"The Pennsylvania people are the best manufacturers and artisans in America. The best educational institutions and factories are found in the town of Bethlehem; all other provinces receive their best grade of merchandise from this place. The Penn family still have the right of possession in the province to the extent of owning the country within the old outlines as long as they do not side with their King. However, it is to be doubted, if they will be allowed to sell in the future the parts which are not yet cultivated. We are exceedingly well received, (excepting in the cities of Lancaster and York-Town). We liked it best at the Quakers, Anabaptists and other sects; they were the most hospitable to our men. Each wagon carrying our baggage, was paid for with 55 shillings per day and free forage. The horses of this province exceed all others in regard to the amount of work they can do. They are stronger and bigger than all I have seen.

"Province of Maryland, December 27th, 9 miles. We passed through woods and badly cultivated country until we reached Towny-Town (Taneytown), a miserable little place with 50 or 60 houses. The Pennsylvania militia left us here, and an escort of Maryland took its place. We lost every time when a change was made, because the newcomers did not know what to do, nor were they inclined to help us."

As the Pennsylvania militia's duty here terminates, as an escort, our duty of making extracts from the daily journal of Lieutenant du Roi also ends here. The lieutenant continues his daily record in his usual interesting style as the prisoners and their escort proceeded southward. The division arrived at Charlottesville, Virginia, on January 17th, 1779, after covering a distance, on this march, of 707 miles. As a summary to his journal, after resting from the long journey, among other things he writes:

"We had no right to complain of the treatment received during the march. Although we were refused quarters in some places, we were most of the time well received. The officers were always received with distinction. The commanders of the escorts left it entirely with the commanders of the divisions to decide the time of march. They allowed the divisions to march as we thought best and had no objections of sending some of the men back, or giving them permission to arrive later. Most of the time the escort only showed the way, or assisted in getting quarters for our men, when we met with refusal. We have, however, much to complain of the expenses during the march. We were often taken the advantage of and could not help ourselves. In the first place the judge lives 5 or 6 miles away. And even if we could have reached him, it would have done no good. The inhabitants of Connecticut were the most reasonable ones, and the lower class of Virginia the worse. These presented the most outrageous bills. I had to pay \$30, in paper money for two days board and lodging in Luisburg (Lewisburg). I am sure I had to spend at least 1000 paper dollars during the trip from Boston to Charlottesville. I had not been extravagant at all, and had fared very poorly at times.

"The weather was not as unbearable as might have been expected in this season. We suffered more from wet weather than from cold, and the cold weather never lasted more than 4 or 5 days. * * *

"We were luckier than we expected to be in regard to desertions. When we left Boston, we had good reason to fear that we would not be able to land here with more than one-third of our men. However, only a few more than 400 deserted. We had very few sick men, and had to leave only two behind. This is remarkable, as we marched every day regardless of weather. It was impossible at times to provide the men with shoes and stockings. Besides, they were not able to protect themselves against the cold, their clothes being much torn and ragged. Our men had to

stand a great many hardships, although everything was done for them that could be done.

"In Pennsylvania, and in other places with German inhabitants, we lost most of our men. They were persuaded to stay behind, and the girls did their best to keep them as husbands. Even the officers were not safe from such proposals, and I know of some to whom girls offered a fortune of \$3000 to \$4000.00."

General Washington writes from his headquarters, at Fredericksburg, on Nov. 18, 1778, to the Board of War, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this letter he makes a strong appeal for a detail of Pennsylvania militia, to escort the Convention troops from the Delaware river southward, and also for wagons to transport baggage, etc. The Convention troops according to previous plans were to cross the Delaware at Easton, Pennsylvania; march across the state to Reading, then on to Lancaster and Columbia, and here to cross the Susquehanna river, etc.

Under date of Nov. 23, 1778, General Washington writes to the Board of War as follows: "The route of the Convention troops, since my first letter—has been changed for convenience of forage and provisions, and they will now pass the Delaware at Sherrard's Ferry."

As there was a delay in the delivery of this letter of Washington's, to the Board of War; and as the prisoners were now marching southward, all possible haste was necessary for action. Immediately the Supreme Executive Council, at Philadelphia, whose duty it was now to act, and to act promptly,—ordered, under date of Nov. 26, 1778, that: "The militia of the first class of Bucks and Philadelphia County, be immediately called into service." The call was for four or five hundred men.

Great trouble was experienced in securing the quota of officers and men of the militia to do this work. All sort of excuses were forthcoming for leniency and for exemption by the men of this class of militia. However, the Supreme Executive Council prevailed upon the Lieutenants of the counties the importance of securing the men promptly, for a few days delay on

the road of the Convention troops meant a consumption of all supplies and stores, in and about the neighborhood, where they would be held up, and thereby bring great distress and misery on the inhabitants.

The following letter from President Joseph Reed, of the Supreme Executive Council of Philadelphia—to Colonel Richard McAllister, Lieutenant of York County—explains the situation. I quote it in part:

“Philadelphia, Dec. 9th, 1778.

Sir:—

“The Hon’le the Continental Congress, having required a Body of Militia from this State to escort the prisoners, under the Convention at Saratoga, to the Borders of this State, on their way to Virginia, I am to inform you that the Militia of the Counties of Bucks and Philadelphia will Perform this duty in Part, but it will be necessary for the County of York to turn out a part of her Militia to meet the prisoners on the banks of the Susquehanna River, at Wright’s Ferry, with all possible dispatch. You are therefore hereby required to call one class of the Militia of your County for the purpose aforesaid, agreeably to the enclosed resolve of Council. And as the Service will be both Honorable and Easy, we hope you will have sufficient number prepared to receive them, as the Divisions respectfully arrive; the whole number will be about 5000, they march in 6 divisions, and follow each other very close. The First Division crossed the Delaware this morning. * * *

“We hope there will be no occasion for an extraordinary supply of arms, but if there should, you must apply to Mr. Henry of Lancaster. Provisions, &c., are laid up on the route. * * * Colonel Bland has the general direction of the Business, to whom you are to apply farther if necessary.

“I have only to add that these prisoners have, in some Instances, proved Disorderly and Licentious on their march, as their Route, therefore, lays thro’ your County, the Preservation of your inhabitants from Insult and their pro-

perty from Destruction will afford you additional Motive to leave nothing undone to have the Guard prepared. For any delay on this account will not only be a Reproach to the State, but prove extremely Burthensome to the Inhabitants where such delay happens, all the Provisions and Forage being laid in as for a continual March."

That part of the above letter referring to the ordering into active service of one class of the York County militia, was later on countermanded by the Supreme Executive Council, at its regular meeting, held under date of Dec. 12, 1778, which reads: "Ordered, That the March of the Militia of the County of York, intended to guard the Convention Troops, be countermanded."

After the early trouble of the commanding officers was over that of getting men to serve for this guard from the Bucks and Philadelphia County militia, it was found that an ample number was forthcoming, and therefore the York County contingent was not required, and this is why the orders were countermanded.

Upon their arrival at Taneytown, Md., the Convention troops were taken over by a similar detail of the Maryland militia, and, as soon as the new guard assumed charge, the Bucks and Philadelphia County militia prepared for their return trip.

On their return journey these troops generally traveled the same route, and stopped for rest and refreshments at the same places as when going out. The officers rode their own horses, the rank traveled afoot, and the wagons journeyed the same roads. Those of the rank, when there was room, rode in the wagons.

It was sometime in the middle of January, in 1779, before the militia arrived at their homes exhausted, footsore and weary. The troops had suffered much from exposure, cold and wet, for it was in the middle of January. On the entire trip, they were irregularly and insufficiently fed with food of a not very good quality. These provisions were all supplied by the communities through which they passed, and what was not given them they had to pay for at extravagant prices.

Lieutenant Aubury further writes:

"Upon our arrival in the town of Fredericktown, Maryland, we remained 9 days at the tavern, and upon quitting the landlord gave us the following curious bill, which I send you by way of America's charging:

To 3 breakfasts @ 12 dollars	£13:10:0
To 5 breakfasts servants, @ 10 dollars	£18:15:0
To mug of cyder 30, 8 qts oats @ 1½ dollars 90, £ 6: 0:0	
To 3 dinners, @ 15 dollars,	£16:17:0
To 1 qt. Beer 45,	£19: 2:6
To 3 suppers @ 12 dollars	£12:10:0
To 3 suppers, servants, £18:15:0	£32: 4:0
To 9 qts. oats	£ 5: 1:3
To 2 suppers, servants, 75	£ 9:16:0
To 2 Lodging 30, stabling and hay 3 horses @ 12 dollars, £13:10:0	£15: 0:0
To 9 qts. oats, £5:1:3. 3 Breakfasts. £13:10:0 ..	£18:11:3
To 3 Breakfasts for servants, £11:5:0, mug cider 30,	£12:15:0
To 4 dinners @ 15 dollars	£22:10:4
To 4 dinners, Servants, £12.00	£37:10:0
To 9 qts. oats, £15:1:3; 2 mugs of cyder 60; do Beer 90	£12.11.3
To 3 suppers, £13:10:0, ditto for servants, £11:5:0	£24:15:0
To 9 qts. of oats	£ 5: 1:3

This is the run of prices for the nine days stay at the tavern. The grand total for the nine days was £732:15:0. The total cost of the bill as rendered was in paper currency, the prevailing money of the province at the time, and it was then at a great depreciation. In gold, it amounted to four and half guineas British money. Before the Lieutenant paid the bill he had his gold exchanged for paper, and then paid the landlord in depreciated money as per bill rendered.

These British and Hessian officers seemed to have been under parole at all times, and were given wide range of free-

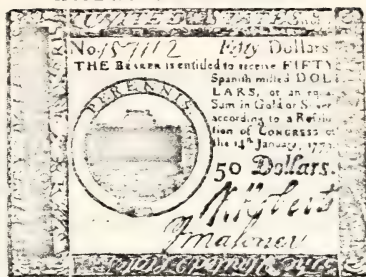
AMERICAN DOLLARS.



REVERSE.



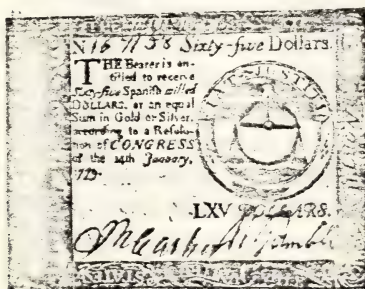
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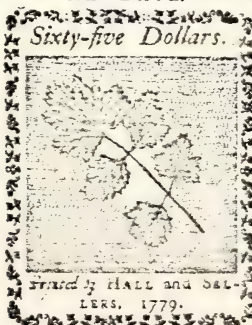
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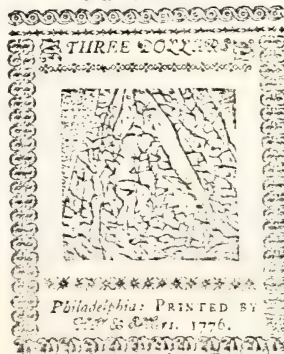
REVERSE.



AMERICAN DOLLARS.



REVERSE.



American money he writes of having a great depreciative value, and the character of which the officers and men were paid in, rendering service to their country, guarding the British and Hessian prisoners on their march through our County to Virginia, in 1778.

dom. As they had money of their own, they were privileged to put up wherever they could procure entertainment in the neighborhood of the breaks in their journey. It seems the price of entertainment at the taverns was the same both to captives and the American officers. As the American officers pay was in the prevailing currency, this made it harder and all the more distressing for them to meet these enormous traveling expenses on their limited salary and income. This became so burdensome, that their only alternative was that upon their return home, to make an appeal for relief from the State. As a consequence the following petition explains itself:—

“To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

“The Petition of the Officers of the Second Battalion of Philadelphai County Militia that marched to Maryland as a guard to the Convention Troops.

“Humbly Showeth:

“That your Petitioners by reason of the very extraordinary high prices of every necessary of Life, have been under the necessity of expending large sums of Money over and above their pay.

“That your petitioners have been informed that the Continental officers on the same command have been allowed something handsome for their expenses over and above their pay and Rations. Your petitioners therefore beg leave to lay their Case before your Honors praying that you may take the same into your serious Consideration and grant them relief by allowing them something toward defraying thei rexpenses, or by allowing them pay for a full Tour of Militia duty, or otherwise as Council may see fit, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.”

(Signed)

JOHN MOORE, Col'l,
JACOB REED, L. Connel,
JOSIAH HART, Cap't.
FILIB GABEL, Cap't,
THOMAS HAMILTON, Capt,
C. (Chas.) BENSELL, Surg'n.

As a matter of explanation it might be said the officers constituting the Second Battalion of the Philadelphia County militia as above given were *appointed* for the occasion. These did not constitute the officers of the *elective* Second Battalion of this county's militia. In other words this new Battalion as above constituted was hastily and provisionally made up of officers of various Philadelphia County battalions and created an emergency body for the occasion. At Sherrard's Ferry they were hurriedly assigned to march the Convention troops onward on their journey without delay and confusion.

The officers, as well as men so detailed for this work—arrived at the Ferry so irregular and without order that they could not be placed with any degree of order and regularity in company and battalion arrangement to meet the situation, this is why the muster rolls of the time, of the militia of Bucks and Philadelphia counties, performing this duty, were so at variance with the muster rolls of officers and men of the regular battalions of these troops.

The elective commands held by these officers in the county militia on the petition at the time were as follows:—

John Moore, Colonel, who commanded the 2nd Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia,—was a miller by trade, and resided and conducted a mill in Bristol Township.

Jacob Reed, Lieutenant-Colonel, an officer in the 1st Battalion, Philadelphia County Militia, was a farmer and resided in Hatfield Township.

Josiah Hart, Captain, was the commanding officer of Moreland Township Company, Philadelphia County Militia. He owned and operated a grist mill in Moreland.

Philip Gabel, Captain, was the commanding officer of the Lower District, Upper Salford Township, Philadelphia County Militia. He owned and conducted an Inn in Upper Salford.

Thomas Hamilton, Captain, is supposed to have been a farmer and resided in Oxford Township, Philadelphia County.

C. (Chas.) Bensell, Surgeon, was in the 7th Battalion, Germantown Township, Philadelphia Militia. He resided in Germantown, and was appointed in this township's militia, on May 16, 1773 by William Coates, a Lieutenant of Philadelphia County.

ST. JAMES CHURCH, PERKIOMEN, EVANSBURG

By I. C. Williams

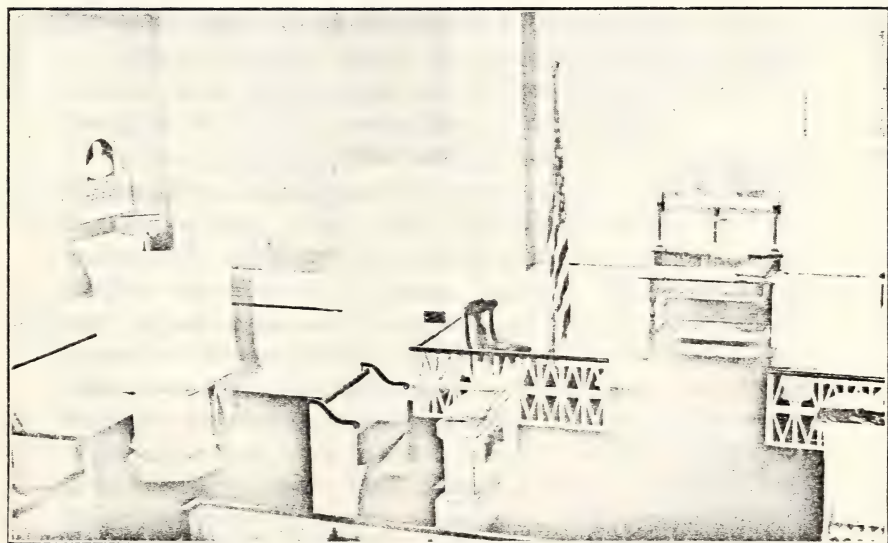
After William Penn received his grant of Pennsylvania from the King of England, he immediately began to make sales of large areas to his friends and others, some of which were made prior to his coming to America to take possession of his grant. Very soon after his arrival he issued a warrant to one of these purchasers for 4400 acres of land out of a purchase of 5,000 acres, and it is within this tract of 4400 acres that the property of St. James' Episcopal Church of Perkiomen is now situate. These early purchasers are known as "first purchasers" and in Pennsylvania conveyancing the rights which they thus were invested with are known as "old-rights."

In an admirable sketch of the history of the St. James' congregation and related subjects, presented at the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the present church edifice, held on Sunday, October 28th, 1894, prepared by the then rector, Rev. A. J. Barrow, much interesting matter is contained relating to the first settlers, the first purchasers of land in the neighborhood and incidents pertaining to the establishment of a civilization in the wilderness. It is stated therein that Edward Lane, the founder of the settlement of Perkiomen, purchased 2500 acres of a tract of 5,000 acres originally granted to one of the first purchasers, Thomas Rudyard, of London. This purchase was located on both sides of the Perkiomen, extending eastward to the Skippack Creek, and contains within its bounds the present village of Evansburg, the Borough of Collegeville, and a large number of farms and smaller tracts into which it has subsequently been divided. For this reason some further facts about this purchase may be of interest at this time.

The first concern of the Proprietary was to be on friendly terms with the Indians. We therefore find him almost immediately entering into negotiations with them for the purchase



ST. JAMES CHURCH OF PERKIOMEN AND PARISH HOUSE
At Evansburg, Montgomery County, Pa.



INTERIOR ST. JAMES, PERKIOMEN, EVANSBURG

of their lands. His regulations for according them proper treatment were carefully drawn.

The Indian Sachem Maughaugsin was recognized, with his tribe, as the owner of all the lands in the Perkiomen Valley. By deed dated June 3rd, 1684, Maughaugsin conveyed to William Penn all the lands lying on the Pahkehoma, or Perkiomen as it is now called. This deed is not recorded and so far as we know, is lost. A description of it is contained in the 2nd volume of Smith's Laws.

Subsequently on September 17, 1718, a deed of release for the same and other lands was executed by several chiefs of the Delaware Indians. This release recites sundry deeds from individual chiefs for smaller tracts and then releases all the lands from the Delaware to the Susquehanna and north to the mountains at Lehigh. This paper is found among the archives of the State in Book A, Vol. 6 at page 59, recorded May 13, 1728. The consideration mentioned is two guns, six coats, six blankets, six duffel match coats, and four kettles. It is then recited that all this is done out of gratitude for the presents given.

One can almost picture the gratitude showing on their swarthy faces while parting with millions of acres of land for two guns, six blankets, twelve coats, and four kettles.

Upon inspection of the original records it is learned that William Penn issued a warrant on the 12th day of the 4th month in the year 1684, or only nine days after purchasing from the Indian chief, directing that 4400 acres in the county of Philadelphia—be surveyed to Thomas Rudyard. The original warrant, signed in the well known hand of Penn himself, and addressed to Thomas Holme, the Surveyor General of the Province, is on file among the archives at Harrisburg; (and a photographic reproduction of this ~~warrant~~ is presented herewith, believing that the very fountain head of the legal title to this area will be of more than passing interest to those whose homes at present lie within its bounds.) The warrant in full reads as follows:

"William Penn, Proprietary & Governo^r of ye Province of Pennsylvania & ye Territories thereunto belonging."

"At ye request of Thos. Rudyard Purchaser of Five Thousand Acres yt I would grant him to take up 4400 acres in ye County of Philadelphia. These are to will & require that forthwith to Survey or cause to be Surveyed unto him ye sd Number of Acres in ye afore mentioned County, where not already taken up after ye Method of Townships appointed by me, and seating ye same according to Regulation, & make return thereof unto my Secretary's Office. Given at Philadelphia, ye 12th of ye 4th mo. 1684.

WM. PENN

To Thomas Holme
Surveyr Genl.

71 the ditto ordered any of ye surveyrs to lay it out."

The endorsement on this old warrant, (a photographic reproduction of which is also presented herewith), shows that 1200 acres of the original grant to Rudyard were laid out elsewhere, a portion of the endorsement reading "whereof 1200 A laid out in Newton¹ Township in Cheshire²".

It appears that the 2500 acres which afterwards became the property of Edward Lane were first sold by Thomas Rudyard to Andrew Robinson. In the papers relating to the transaction his name is variously spelled, being both Robeson and Robison.

Subsequently Andrew Robinson applied for authority to have his purchase made from Rudyard surveyed off to him, and for this purpose Penn's agents at Philadelphia issued the following warrant:

"At the request of Andrew Robinson that wee would grant him a warrt. to take up the remainder of his Land (wch he bought of Thomas Rudyard Purchaser of Five Thousand acres of Land) in the County of Philadelphia.

"These are therefore in the Proprietors Name to require thee to Survey or cause to be Surveyed unto the said Andrew Robinson the said Land within the said County and make return thereof into the Secretrys Office Dated at Philadelphia the 11th day of Feby, 1692/3.

(Signed) Wm. Markham

Capt. Thos. Holme

Robert Turner

Surveyr Genl

John Good (son)

or his Lawfull Deputy.

Sam: Carpenter

William Penn Proprietary & Govern of the Counties of Pennsyl-
vania & of the City of Philadelphia

Request of Thomas Rudyard Purchaser of Five Hundred
Acres of Land grant him to give up Four thousand four hundred
and fifty Acres of Land to wit the same being
situated in the County of Chester the same being
of the same for cause to be provided unto him & the same
of the same in the aforementioned County as he not already taken
up after the Method of Townships appointed by me, he being
in full according to Regulation & make return thereof to
my Secretarys Office Given at Philadelphia the 12th of 4th 1764

For Thomas Rudyard
Surveyor General

[Signature]

17th of the ordinary of the Court to be laid out.

The Proprietor for
4400⁰ 1/2

Entered
or Recorded

12th of the ordinary of the Court
in the County of Chester

Wm
Thomson
Surveyor General
13

The warrant is endorsed "Andrew Robeson in right of Tho. Rudyard. Warrt for Land in Philadelphia County."

Upon the issuing of this warrant the Surveyor General directed the same to Thomas Fairman one of his deputy Surveyors, and the return made by Fairman on the 12th day of the 12th month, 1694, reads as follows:

"By virtue of two warrants to me directed by Capt. Thomas Holme, Surveyor General, the one bearing date the 17th day of the 4th mo: 1684, to lay out unto Thomas Rudyard his proportion of Land in any county with the Province of Pensilvania, and also one other warrant bearing date the 27th of the first month, 1693, to lay out unto Andrew Robison the remainder of his purchase from Thos. Rudyard, these may certify that I have accordingly surveyed and layed out unto the said Andrew Robison the quantity of two thousand five hundred acres of Land part of the said Purchase within the County of Philadelphia Beginning at a post of Derick Sipmans Land thence north west line eight hundred thirty four perches to a white oke marked for a corner Thence south west by the Land of Jacob Toldner and Compa four hundred and eighty perches to a black oke saplin Thence south east by the Proprietors Maner eight hundred thirty four perches to a black oke marked for a corner Thence North East by the Township of Tho: Harley and other Londoners four hundred and eighty perches to the first mentioned post standing near a small hickry tree.

qt: 2500 A of Land surveyed 12th day of ye 12th mo. 1694.

P. Tho. Fairman,
Survr.

The draft herewith is a copy of the draft filed by Thos. Fairman, the Deputy Surveyor, with his return of survey, which was filed in the Office of the Surveyor General, 12th mo. 11th, 1698/9.

This, therefore, is an accurate representation of the tract of Edward Lane. As shown by the draft, it was a simple rectan-

gular tract 480 perches wide by 834 perches long, and the joiners on the respective sides were as follows: On the north east by land of Dirck Sipman; on the north west by land of Jacob Toldner & Co.; on the south west by land of the Proprietors Manor on the Perkiomen or the Manor of Gilbert; and on the south east by Tho. Harley's land. The Sipman land is the VanBebber land subsequently purchased from Sipman by VanBebber, and now forming a large part of the townships of Skipack and Perkiomen.

Just beyond Edward Lane's holding and immediately joining him was the tract of Mathias VanBebber, commonly known as "Bebber's Township". In the patent to VanBebber's survey, the first call in the description is as follows: "Beginning at a hickory sapling at the corner of Edward Lane's, and, from thence by a line of marked trees north east, &c." until we come to the last clause then it reads "then south east by the said Edward Lane's land 900 perches to the place of beginning."

It is likely the hickory sapling mentioned as standing at the corner of Edward Lane's land is the same small hickory tree standing near the post mentioned in the return of Andrew Robinson's survey by Thomas Fairman, which tract, as we have seen, subsequently became the property of Edward Lane.

Rudyard's deed to Robinson bears date July 15, 1685. Prior to his death Andrew Robinson had agreed to convey this tract to Thos. Fairman. The latter thereupon sold his right to purchase to Edward Lane. Samuel Robinson the son and heir of Andrew then joined with Thomas Fairman in a deed to Edward Lane, dated the 12th day of the 9th month, 1698/99. Edward Lane thereupon requested the Proprietary to grant him a patent for this tract and thus confirm his title and right of possession. On the 24th day of October, 1701, William Penn granted a patent which is recorded among the archives of the State in Patent Book A, No. 2, at page 175. Edward Lane's name throughout this instrument is spelled "Lain". The patent recites all the prior steps in title and is an interesting relic of the beginning of Pennsylvania land tenures.

The settlement at Perkiomen having been effected by Edward Lane, he in all probability was largely instrumental in

Land of the Proprietors Munroe on Perkominck

South East 834 Perches

ANDREW ROBESON 2500 ACRES

North East 480 Perches

Thos. Harley Land

North West 834 Perches

Derick Shipman's Land

Layed out by me THOS. FAIRMAN, SUR.

South West 480 Perches

Land of Jacob Toldner & Compa.

Dated Eleventh Day February, 1692/3

establishing regular religious services in the locality, and being a member of the Church of England was surrounded by a number of settlers who adhered to the same faith, it was a most natural thing for him to take the lead in establishing a fixed place of worship.

Edward Lane's will is dated July 4th, 1709. It was proved April 19th, 1710 and is recorded in Philadelphia in Will Book "E" at page 200. The following is an extract from his will: "I give and bequeath unto my son William & to his Exrs., Admis. & Assigns forever all that pte of my Plantacon, I now live on wch. lieth on the east side of Perkoamy Creek (Except ye pte before bequeathed) together with all ye Improvements thereon he paying unto his sister Christian thereout two hundred pounds Curtt. money of this Province at the expiration of one year after he comes to the enjoyment of this his bequest."

William Lane, a son of Edward Lane, therefore, came into possession of that part of 2500 acres of land lying to the east of the Perkiomen and stretching to the Skippack with the exception of the mill at the Skippack which he had previously in his will devised to another of his sons.

William Lane's will is dated January 8th, 1732-33, and was proved January 31st, 1732. His executors were Samuel Lane and Henry Pawling.

To provide for the continuance of public worship at St. James' Church, and to enable it to have a stated income for the benefit of the rector in charge, William Lane devised a tract of land for the purpose which is described by the following extract from his will. "I do hereby give & bequeath for the use of the minister that shall serve successively at St. James' Church, situate in Province above sd, Forty-two Acres of land adjoining thereto wch sd land shall be laid out commodius for a settlement as conveniently it may without causing much damage to the remainder part of my land, and the above sd Forty-two acres of land Messuage, Tenents, Hereditimants, Appurtenances & Improvements whatsoever shall be & continue by virtue hereof to & for the use above sd from the day of my decease thenceforward & forever. I give & bequeath unto the present minister of the sd place of worship (to wit) Mr. Alexandr Howry, five

pounds lawful money of the above sd Province to be paid unto him or his heirs at the end of three months next from the day of my decease."

Consequently Wm. Lane's executors made a formal release of the tract thus bequeathed to the wardens and vestrymen of St. James', the first survey of which was made by Hendrik Pannebecker on the 10th day of September, 1738. This gift to the church was commonly known as the Glebe lands and is sometimes spoken of thus to this day.

About the time of Edward Lane's purchase there was founded in England for the purpose of carrying the gospel into foreign parts, a society known by the name of "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel", commonly known as the "S. P. G.", and it early turned its attention to America. The Bishop of London was instrumental in sending to these shores the Rev. Evan Evans, who very early took charge of the worship of St. James. His real charge was Christ Church in Philadelphia, but with great zeal and earnestness he devoted himself to the outlying districts and made frequent journeys to Perkiomen, Radnor, the Great Valley, and other localities. We find that Evan Evans was born in Wales; was educated in England, and came to America in the year 1700. So great was his power as a preacher that in two years it is said he added 500 members to the Church. Soon after his coming, finding the congregation poor and unable to assist to the degree which he required in order to give the attention he desired to the outlying districts, he petitioned the sovereign for a stipend and he was granted 50 pounds per year for this purpose. It is said that many traveled long distances from the country into the city to hear his most effective preaching. He always preached two evening lectures on Sunday, one to a society of young men and the other at the regular church service, but the former became one of the marked features of his religious work.¹

Note 1—We are indebted to Dr. Julius Sabese, late Librarian of the Masonic Temple, for the following statement which is embodied in a paper read by him at a Reunion of the Descendants of the Masonic Temple, for the following statement which is transcripts of the original reports of the early missionaries sent out by the "S. P. G.", which include a report of the Rev. Evan Evans, Minister of Christ Church, made in 1704, in which that noted

In the year 1707 he returned to England on private business the Rev. Rudman taking charge of his work in his absence and returned again to America in 1709. At this time he brought with him as a gift from Queen Anne the silver communion set for Christ Church, Philadelphia.

In 1716 he again went to England, this time resigning his charge. He returned two years later and settled in Maryland where he died in the year 1721, and asked to be buried at the north end of the altar in St. George's Church, which he was largely instrumental in bringing up. He left a widow Alice, and one child, a daughter, who afterward married a Rev. Mr. Lloyd, and made her home in England.

"The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts" was especially interested in sending out clergymen and ministers and establishing churches in America.² Another of the clergy-

clergyman states that he had, at that time, preached and held services at Perquahoma for four years. This, said Dr. Sachse, "settles the matter that old St. James' Perkiomen dates back to 1700 and not to 1708 or any later date, and this is no longer a matter of tradition but thoroughly authenticated fact."

The published records of the "S. P. G." contain a letter from Mr. Evans dated August 27, 1709, in which he says—"On next Monday I am to preach at a new settlement called Perquomon in the County of Philadelphia, twenty-four miles to the west of this place, where I am to baptize a whole family of Quakers to the number of sixteen."

Note 2—After Dr. Evan's removal the congregation evidently continued to grow, they built a substantial stone church about that time as shown by the records of the "S. P. G." Therein is a letter from Rev. Robert Weyman dated Oct. 24, 1723, stating that; "Two churches have been built lately, at some distance from Philadelphia; the one, Perquahoma, which was opened and taken possession of for the services of the Church of England, by some of our members, about two years ago, and the other at Whitemarsh, where divine services hath not been, as yet, performed." In the following year he reports again to the Society: "There are several large tracts of land inhabited where there is neither church or minister and several churches built in other tracts which are in great want of missionaries, particularly those at Bristol, Parkiomen and Whitemarsh". Another letter from the same clergyman to the Society, dated Aug. 3, 1728, mentions his holding services at Perquihoma and Whitemarsh, but we do not know how long or how regularly these services were continued.

On June 29, 1732, the Rev. Archibald Cummings of Philadelphia, who seems to have supervised the Society's activities in the province, writes: "Mr. Alexander Howie arrived about ten days ago, appointed to Whitemarsh and Perquihoma." This Rev. Alexander Howie the same year reports to the Society: "At the entrance of my ministry the numbers of my hearers were very

men sent out by the Society was the Rev. Griffith Hughes, who was born in Merionethshire, in the year 1707. Coming to Pennsylvania in the year 1733, he labored among the Welsh settlers in Lancaster and Berks Counties, and especially at old St. David's Church in Radnor. In one of his letters addressed to the Secretary of the Society, dated at Radnor, March 2d, 1733, he states that he endeavored to rectify the mistakes found among the parishioners, friends of those imbued with false doctrine. "I had no sooner finished this task than I found a great necessity of visiting a great many Welsh and English Gent^m. yt lived far back in the Woods where I found a great number of well Disposed persons, But Entirely Destitute of a Minister, at their earnest request I have gone there several times since, and for a long time had no other place to preach but under the Shade of a Large tree, their houses being too small to contain the great number that resorted there, my last Journey to them Completed in all one Thousand, one Hundred and Five miles besides my immediate attendance at Radnor, & the Perquihoma, at either of which Churches, I preach and Catechize every Sunday." He then goes on to say that the number of his communicants at Radnor since his coming has increased from 48 to 55 and at "Perquihoma" or Perkiomen, an increase from 19 to 21.

The above letter is found among the archives of the Society

small at Perquahoma, but for some time past they have enlarged very considerably and continue to do so by the daily coming over of Roman Catholics, Anabaptists and Quakers."

During this time the church took an active part in the education of the young and Mr. Howie found a flourishing parish school here which he mentions in a letter to the Society dated July 20, 1732, saying: "that the school employs two masters who also instruct the children in catechism Sundays." In this letter he reveals the hardships of his work. "Between Whitemarsh and Perquihoma it is a long way and very dangerous travelling for the greater part of the year so that I have run the hazard of my life in riding over creeks between the two churches." The Society took notice of his complaint and commissioned him to substitute Oxford for Perquihoma, which he did. As a result of this change we now have Church Road connecting Whitemarsh and Oxford.

It is supposed that the old school house still standing at the west end of the cemetery was erected about this time. This building has been restored during the past three years, and is now known as the Mortuary Chapel.

for Propagating the Gospel, or as it was then known, the "S. P. G." in London.

In another of his letters dated September 10, 1735, he petitions the Society to be allowed to return to England to reprint some Welsh books of which they are sorely in need, and shows that his presence in Pennsylvania could be dispensed with but "lately in my way to Perquihoma Church I had the misfortune to break my knee pan," continuing that in this condition it is impossible for him to serve the church in any regular order, and especially because of the hardships which he had to endure on his journeys, saying that his efforts "to preach among the Back Inhabitants Hath very much impaired my health, being often obliged in the day to want the common necessities of life and in the night to be contented the shade of a Large tree for my Lodging."

In the year 1736³ he was still officiating at Radnor and Perkiomen, for in his letter dated June 25th of that year, after stating that he had obtained a license to return to Pennsylvania, he uses the explanation "for 4 months, where I now officiate at

Note 3—There is some discrepancy between the statements of this letter and a petition which was forwarded to the Society dated August 1, 1736. It bears this preamble; "The Humble Petition of Sundry Members of the Congregation belonging to St. James' Church near Perquahoma in the Province of Pennsylvania in behalf of themselves and the whole Congregation". It complains that Mr. Hughes seldom came near them, that he had gone to Barbadoes without giving them the least notice and that "without your Honorable Society will be pleased to continue your care to us this congregation will in a very little while dwindle to naught." It concludes: "Earnestly desiring your Care of us and with assuring you that every one of us will most Chearfully Contribute every thing in our Power for promoting the Christian Religion and Towards the Support of the Gentleman you'll be pleased to send us. That your Pious endeavors may not be wanting to the Destitute is the Earnest Prayer of "Your Honours most sincere and obed't humble servants."

This petition bears the signatures of many whose families have since become prominent, and shows the preponderance of English settlers in this region. It is signed by Wm. Moore, Samuel Lane, Edward Nicholas, Henry Pawling, John Newberry, George Evans, Thomas Howe, John Bull, Thomas Bull, John Davis, Stephen Boyis, Thomas Turner, Wm. Adams, Abraham Adams, Enoch Davis, William Bull, John Simonds, Peter Rambo, Robert Shannon, Philip King, Rodger Worth, Nicholas Hicks, Richard Bull, John Shain, Morrice Lewis, Henry Holstein, John Edwards, Thomas James, David Phillips, Arnswell Beailly, John Jordain, Thos. Kenworthy, Henry Pawling, Henry Barnard, John Morris, Daniel Morris and Paul Castlebury.

Radnor and Perquihoma," saying at the expiration of which time it is his desire to resign his mission and return to the Barbadoes.

One of the well known and rather remarkable men connected with St. James' Church was the Rev. William Currie. Born in Scotland in 1710 and educated at the University of Glasgow, he came to America as a tutor and first settled in Virginia. He afterward went to England for ordination, returned, and became lay reader at St. David's Church, Radnor, and St. James' Church, Perkiomen in the year 1736. Later on he became the first rector of these churches.

Rev. William Currie was a very highly esteemed clergyman. His field was a wide one and it is said that he neglected nothing which would be of advantage in his line of duty. When the Revolutionary war broke out, the rector became *persona non grata* both to the neighborhood and to some of his church people. They insisted that the time had come that he should cease to pray for the King of England, while he just as stoutly was determined that the regular form of prayer should not be changed. Rather than refuse to pray for the King he gave up his charge which he did by a letter addressed to his congregation under date of May 20, 1776. At the end of his letter he uses this sentence. "Let this be pinned in the Vestry Book." An inspection of the book shows how his wish was exactly carried out in this respect. After leaving St. James' Church he retired to his home in Tredyffrin Township, which (during the encampment at Valley Forge, became the headquarters of Gen. Lord Sterling. His granddaughter Margaret, daughter of his son Richard Currie, became the wife of Thomas Walker, a member of an early family in the Chester Valley, and from whom many persons of well known names are descended. Because Thomas Walker married outside of the membership of the Society of Friends, he was disowned by the Society. Rev. William Currie is also remembered for having performed the marriage ceremony of Anna the sister of Isaac Potts, who owned the headquarters Washington occupied at Valley Forge. He also twice married, his first wife being Margaret Ross and his second Mrs. Lucy

Gentlemen

May 20th 1776

Age & infirmities having rendered me unable to
officiate in publick at this time you are not to
expect me at Church any more till Circumstances
are altered & when it shall please God to restore
me to a better State & I can ^{be again} with safety return
to y^e Exercise of my function I will confine my
self to your Church if y^e Congregation will make
y^e Glebe House fit for me to live in

From your loving Pastor

W^m

Let this be paid m^r.
y^e Vestry Book

W^m Currie

CURRIE'S RESIGNATION

Fac simile of letter of resignation of the Rev. William Currie.

Ann Jones, the widow of David Jones. Rev. William Currie with his two wives are buried at St. David's Church, Radnor.

As further illustrative of the conditions under which they labored, the following facts gleaned from the old vestry book may not be without interest:

On June 9th, 1760, it was unanimously agreed that any member of the church might build a pew for his use at his own expense in any part of the west end not "exceeding width four feet and a half and in depth seven feet three inches so as not to incommode the passage from the door to the pulpit." "Whoever builds first shall have choice of the ground. The second shall be next the first, &c."

Each pew was to yield the minister 15 shillings annually. If in default a year, the pew might be declared forfeited and let to other members. It was further provided that any member might sell his pew but only to a member of the Church of England.⁴

On November 12, 1764, it was recorded that "John Bull & James Shannon be undertakers for rebuilding the Glebe house belonging to the Society's mission of Radnor and Perquihoma." For this purpose the sum of 53 pounds was pledged by eleven members. It seems that the repairs must have proceeded very slowly for on May 21, 1770, we learn that accounts were settled and 1£, 4 shillings, 6 pence were found still due for work on the Glebe House. In 1765 Rev. William Currie wrote to the Society in London that the Glebe House⁵ was being repaired and that he

Note 4—The shifting of population was a hard problem facing the church even in that early day as evidences a letter from Mr. Currie to the Society, dated Sept. 29, 1763; "I have the pleasure to acquaint you that my congregations at Radnor and the Valley daily increase but that at Perquihoma rather declines as the Dutch buy out the English and settle in their room."

Note 5—During the troublous times of the Revolution the church was without a minister. After the battle of the Brandywine Washington and his army retreated northward, first to Warwick, where he received guns and supplies and thence across the Schuylkill, encamping on both sides of the Perkiomen on Sept. 19, 1777. According to the orderly books of that year the old Castlebury house was his headquarters and a council of war was held in the study of the "Glebe House," the following morning. After the battle of Germantown the old church was used as a hospital and about 100 soldiers are buried in the cemetery, a boulder, suitably inscribed, commemorates that fact.

intended to live there as the congregation was larger than at Radnor where he also was in charge.

Under date of June 7, 1780, we find mention of the unsettled state of affairs. It was then agreed with John Wade to preach the Gospel every fourth Sunday for which he was to have 30 pounds a year "hard money"; but if the worship be interrupted he should be paid only for the service rendered.⁶ This arrangement continued about six years.

In the meantime the Revolution had closed and the congregation began to look for a regular minister. The choice fell on the Rev. Slator Clay, his ordination taking place February 17, 1788. He continued to officiate at this and other charges, making Perkiomen his home, until his death in 1821. He was buried in the adjoining cemetery.⁷

In the year 1793 it was decided to build a wall around the old Church and burial ground. For this purpose the congregation was divided into four classes. The first class was to build,

Note 6—In 1784 the Episcopal churches in Pennsylvania were invited to send delegates to a convention to be held in Philadelphia for the purpose of organizing a diocese. Dr. Robert Shannon represented St. James' Church at a preliminary meeting held in Christ Church May 24th., and with John Wade represented it also at the first convention of the diocese of Pennsylvania, May 23d, 1785 Dr. Shannon took a prominent part and was appointed on a committee to arrange for the organization of a national church, which action led to the first General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

Note 7—He would be termed a progressive in later days. He anticipated by over a century the present agitation over the word "obey" in the Marriage Service. In his diary he made an entry saying: "I never use the word 'obey' in the marriage service,—I do not want to make the dear ladies tell lies!"

His son, Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay succeeded him in the rectorship, having charge also of St. John's church, Norristown, and Old Swedes' Church, Bridgeport, till 1831, when he resigned to become rector of Gloria Dei Church, Philadelphia.

Soon after Mr. Slator Clay was installed as Rector the Vestry Book gives us a list of pew holders in 1788. It suggests interesting comparisons with the names on the petition signed in 1736. Here is the list: Slaytor Clay, James Shannon, Nathan Pawling, John Bean, Henry Newberry, Robert Shannon, Henry Pawling, Jr., William Lane, James Bean, Benjamin Rittenhouse, Thomas Church, David Evans, David Davis, Rebeckah Lane, Joseph and John Pawling, John and William Shannon, Benjamin and Joseph Pawling, Jr., Paul Custard, William Couch, Owen Evans, Peter Skeen, Paul and Jacob Casselberry, Daniel Markley, Thomas Davis, Joseph Skeen, David Thomas, Jacob Fronfield, Abraham Skeen.

and of course pay for, that part of the wall on the northwesterly side, the second class on the northeasterly side, the third class on the southeasterly side, and the fourth class on the southwesterly side. It was also decided to place three gates in the wall and these were ordered to be furnished at the joint expense of the four classes.

In 1796, a gallery was ordered to be built and the pulpit to be moved over to the southeasterly part of the auditorium.

The subsequent ministers and their career with this congregation are well sketched by Rev. Barrow in the paper to which reference has been made.

The old stone church, standing in the midst of the cemetery opposite the present building, was built in 1721 and was probably preceded by a log structure.⁸ An irreparable mistake was made when it was taken down in 1843 and the stones used in the erection of the present structure. Future generations are not likely to commend the action which destroyed one of the oldest church buildings in this part of America. While we do not worship buildings in this land, as a monument of the toil and privation of the fathers, it deserved to be preserved for all time.

Witness the Lutheran Church at Trappe where no better or more fitting memorial can ever be raised to the memory of Pastor Muhlenberg than the old Augustus Church. At one time it too was threatened with the same fate, but was saved by a protest from the people.

Note 8—Governor Pennypacker, who was deeply versed in local history, stated at one of the annual reunions held at the church, that he had in his possession old deeds antedating 1721 in which reference is made to the Church property and which, said the Governor, proves that there was a church here, tradition says of logs, prior to the building of the first stone church in 1721. In the front of the present church building there is an old stone taken from the gable of the former church bearing the inscription, "I. S." and "I. P." "Wardens, 1721." It must be borne in mind that I. and J. were the same in old inscriptions and the initials refer to James Shattuck and John Pawling, probably. An excellent crayon sketch of the old church was made by the daughter of the Rev. John Reynolds while he was Rector of the parish, 1832-1841, a copy of which hangs in the Parish House and is reproduced as an illustration.

The Parish was incorporated by special Act of the Legislature, dated October 3, 1788, under the title of "The Minister, Wardens and Vestry of the Episcopal Congregation of St. James' Church at Perkiomen, in the Township of New Providence and County of Montgomery." The incorporators named were: Rev. Slator Clay, the present Minister, James Shannon, Nathan Pawling, Senr.,⁹ Edward Lane, John Bean, Henry Newberry, Joseph Pawling, Robert Shannon, Benjamin Rittenhouse, Henry Pawling, Junior, and John Pawling, Junior.

St. John's Church, Norristown, was established December 17, 1812, by members of St. James' Church, prominent among whom was Henry Pawling. The Rev. Slator Clay and his son, the Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay, while rectors of St. James Church and living in the "Glebe House" at Perkiomen, also officiated in St. John's Church.

The present Church edifice was built during the ministrations of the Rev. George Mintzer, who was rector from 1841 to 1857. It was consecrated by Bishop Onderdonk on March 26, 1844.

Under the Rectorship of the Rev. W. R. Stockton, 1858-1863, St. Peter's Church, Phoenixville, was associated with St. James', which connection continued till his resignation, January, 1863.

Another rector, the Rev. A. J. Barrow, from 1890 to 1900, directed the development of a new mission at Royersford, which is now known as the Church of the Epiphany. In 1925 the present rector assumed this additional duty, thus perpetuating the influence of the old parish in stimulating Church life in the surrounding territory.

In 1905 the present parish house was erected and has proved a valuable adjunct in the social and community work of the Church. Another important improvement in the year 1913 was the renovation of the interior of the Church, the rebuilding of the organ, which is one of the finest toned instru-

Pawling family originally came to this County from Esopus, now Kingston, Ulster Co., N. Y. (Ed.)

9—The vestry book of St. James' shows that almost continuously for a hundred and fifty years or longer some member of the Pawling family held responsible office in the church.

ments in this section, and the restoration of the sanctuary with its altar, the top of which was hewn from a walnut log for the first Church. Both in these renovations and in subsequent improvements care has been taken to preserve the quaintly, beautiful colonial character of the interior.

The traditions and memories of this sacred spot have inspired the following lines by Isaac Rusling Pennypacker.¹⁰

“Rich in its relics, glebe and graves,
And memories and oak trees old,
The Church of strong foundation braves
The touch of time and moss and mould.
Windows and doors are open flung
To every summer breeze that blows,
And where last year the oriole swung
Again his liquid fluting flows.
Soft breeze, sweet incense of the grass
And perfect song of swaying bird—
All these are prayers which upward pass,
And praises, spoken not, yet heard.”

10—Connected with the parish is the quaint old cemetery which contains one of the oldest legible inscriptions in Montgomery County. It is partly in Dutch and partly in English and bears date 1723. Old records mention interments as early as 1700 but many of the oldest looking stones are now illegible. The grave of Capt. Vachel Howard, which Washington visited while he was President and living in Philadelphia, when he stood with bared head and said “Here lies the body of a brave man,” and of other officers of Colonial and Revolutionary days are of great interest. A liberal endowment of the cemetery, independent of the Church, provides perpetually for keeping it in good condition.

During the Rectorship of the present incumbent, the Rev. Charles Forest Scofield, which began in 1921, all the property of the parish has been greatly improved and it has taken on new life. The cemetery wall has been rebuilt and, chiefly, the old school house which was in ruins, has been restored and is now used as a Mortuary Chapel. It is a quaint old building at the west end of the cemetery, with little diamond-pane casement windows, and in its restoration care was exercised to preserve all that was possible of the old fabric. It is continuing its educational career for it houses a community library and the Rector uses it for lectures to the pupils of the public schools.

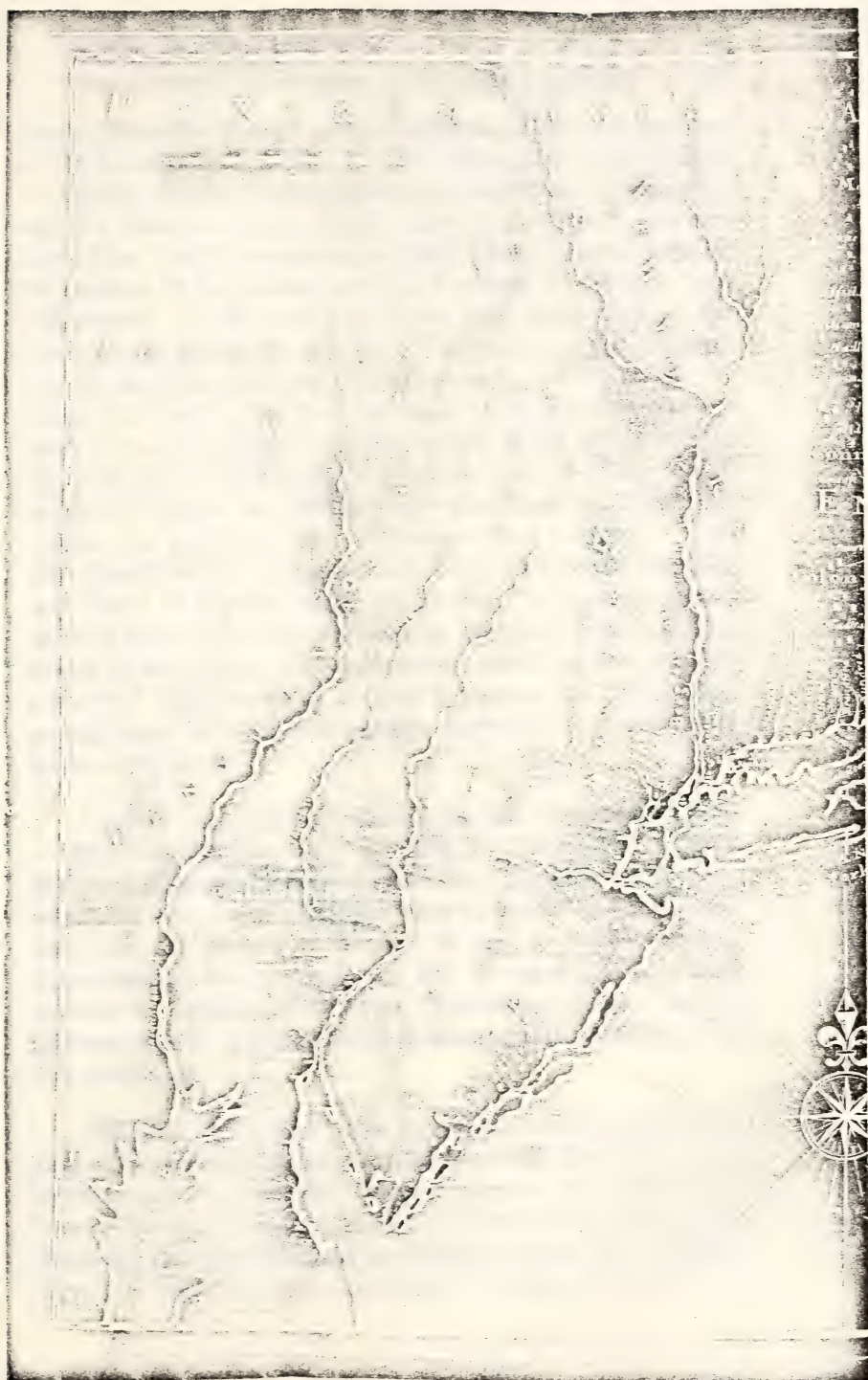
SUPPLEMENTARY HISTORY OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH, PERKIOMEN

Rev. Charles F. Scofield

The current historical and genealogical sketches of St. James' Church refer chiefly to English families as the early members of the congregation. This is true, also, of the papers read at the annual reunions of the descendants of the old members of the church. But there is evidence of a large, if not predominant, element of Welsh settlers in the early years of the eighteenth century.

In the "Historical Collections of Gwynedd," page 304, in the library of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, is this quotation from a letter of the Rev. Evan Evans:—"There is another Welsh settlement called Montgomery in the County of Philadelphia, twenty miles distant from the city, where there are considerable numbers of Welsh people, formerly, in their native country, of the communion of the Church of England." The query arises, what settlement is designated as "Montgomery?" The date of the beginnings of St. James' Church is involved in the answer. For this same missionary, in his earlier correspondence repeats his use of the word to designate a work he had undertaken in Philadelphia County. In a letter to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, (hereafter designated as the S. P. G.) he states "But Montgomery and Radnor, next to my beloved Philadelphia, had the most considerable share of my labors where I preached in Welsh once a fortnight for four years till the coming of Mr. Nichols as Minister of Chester in 1704."

By a comparison of the documents published by the S. P. G. we can identify this "Montgomery" with Perkiomen, as it was afterward called. There is in the library of the Pennsyl-



vania Historical Society a book entitled, "Historical account of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; Containing their Foundation, Proceedings and the Success of their Missionaries in the British Colonies to the Year 1728." Accompanying this report is a map showing the location of the mission stations, a portion of which is here reproduced. It will show how vague their ideas were of the geography of this region with the "Perquemuck" as a continuation of the Schuylkill and extending up to the region of Albany. No wonder that when the name "Perquahoma" was applied to the Montgomery settlement, they failed to identify it. On page 149 of this book is this statement:—"The Welsh people of Radnor and Montgomery addressed the Bishop of London for a Minister who understood their language." This undoubtedly refers to a memorial from the Church Wardens and Vestry of Radnor asking the Bishop "To condescend and settle ye Rev. Mr. Robert Weyman or any other Welsh minister among us and ye people of Parkyomen, which are now building a church." This memorial is dated September 20, 1720. Comparing these two statements leaves no doubt that they refer to the same place.

On July 19, 1726, Gov. Patrick Gordon wrote the S. P. G. —"Mr. Weyman acquaints me that he has applied to have charge of Whitemarsh instead of Radnor. Radnor and Parkeomen being only ten miles distant, may be supplied by some minister who can preach in Welsh." It may be noted that this desired change was not made and Mr. Weyman gave occasional services to Parkeomen till 1730. This letter of Gov. Gordon indicates that in 1726 the Welsh element in this community was still prominent.

All these references point to the presence of large numbers of Welsh who certainly had an important part in the early development of the parish. The last reference we have to services in Welsh was during the ministrations of the Rev. Griffith Hughes, 1734-36. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Currie, a Scotchman, who continued in charge till 1776.

What has become of this Welsh element? It seems to have disappeared largely before the beginning of the legible records of the parish in 1738. The Vestry book has unfortunately been subject to the depredations of the moths and only the stubs remain of the earlier pages. Therefore the history of the first years of its existence must be gleaned from the letters and records of the "S. P. G." and contemporary correspondence. These, so far as the writer has been able to discover, throw no light on this interesting question.

THE VALLEY FORGE RESERVATION

By S. Gordon Smyth

The State of Pennsylvania has within its borders the localities of two great events in her history which represent two phases of war. One was the conflict of battle where a house was divided against itself, and the other the camp of the Revolutionary army in a state of recuperation during the darkest period that any nation ever experienced. Each one in itself wielding a mighty influence in the destinies of the nation and both relating to two of the most devastating wars that ever sullied the fair name of this country.

Adams county may indeed proudly possess one of the most renowned fields of action known in modern warfare, but Montgomery county claims the distinction of having within her borders a spot fully as famous because—to quote the words of one of our leading journalists “Gettysburg was only fought to maintain what the sufferings of Valley Forge made possible.” Gettysburg—although it was the greatest battlefield of modern times—stands not alone the one and only altar in this land whereon sacrifices were made to liberty, valor and victory, but Valley Forge, too, likewise consecrated in blood and martyrdom—has been exalted, ennobled and enshrined within the hearts of the American people and is fully as much entitled to the glorious tributes of fame and to the immortal memory of Washington and his heroic men, as any martial achievement since the baptism of the nation in the blood of the Revolution.

As the principal facts connected with Washington's occupation of Valley Forge are more or less generally known, particularly those relating to the present acquirement of lands for the creation of the Valley Forge Park, and conforming to an Act of Assembly dated May 30, 1893,—it is only needful for me to touch upon them in passing so that my narrative may be as brief as the subject will admit in the time allotted me.

On Memorial Day, 1893, Governor Pattison: as if to blend the memories of the two great epochs in our national life into one commemorative deed—graciously signed the Act of the legislature whose specific object was—"To acquire, preserve and maintain forever, the Revolutionary camp ground at Valley Forge for the enjoyment of the people of the State." The day of patient waiting for this has at last been realized and now it finds the people of this commonwealth in possession of a cherished heritage—those historic hills and vales where, for six long and weary months, Dec. 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778—lay the Continental army in actual wretchedness and misery—a band of men whose sufferings so fired the hearts of the patriots that in grim desperation they determined to rid the country of the common foe, though the last drop of their blood be shed in the effort.

The proposition to make the headquarters and the surrounding grounds a ward, as it were, of the State—had its origin in the success attending a Centennial celebration held at Valley Forge in 1878 to commemorate the One-Hundredth anniversary of the evacuation of the camp by the Continental troops on June 19, 1778. The ceremonies drew together, as by a common inspiration—a host of people from all parts of the country. The oration was delivered by Henry Armitt Brown, Esq., of Philadelphia—whose powers of eloquence placed him as one of the greatest orators of the time; and here, he told the story of the Revolution and its relation to Valley Forge in such terms that the echoes of it, resounding through the passing years, rouses the patriotic impulses of every true American. Here pride of country was touched and the fires of enthusiasm were kindled anew by the remarkable gifts of the orator; and public sentiment thus awakened crystalized into a demand for a prompt recognition for the recovery of this venerated spot from the neglect and desolation into which it had lapsed during forgotten years. Earnest efforts were at once put forth by many prominent statesmen, civic bodies and patriotic organizations. Private citizens all over the state pleaded for it, and out of it all came a solution. "The Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Asso-

ciation,"—an organization incorporated by the Legislature under date of July 5, 1878,—took the initiative. The incorporators of this body were Wm. H. Holstein, Anna M. Holstein and John W. Eckman, of Upper Merion; Col. Theo. W. Bean, Helen C. Corson and J. P. Hale Jenkins, of Norristown; and Rebecca McInnes, of Bridgeport. Its object was to preserve the headquarters, maintain a museum of relics, and develop a spirit of respect for the locality for the benefit of the people of the nation.

This association was the direct means of securing popular notice to the old camp grounds. The headquarters was purchased by it in 1879; and the work of renovating was carried on modestly and steadily until 1886 when "The Patriotic Order of the Sons of America" came to the assistance of the Memorial Association and materially aided it. Through the latter the two additional acres of ground adjoining were bought; and upon appeal, the Legislature of Pennsylvania appropriated \$5,000 to the Association which was used for repairing and further renovation of the old and picturesque dwelling as it then was, and for erecting a lodge for the custodian of the property.

From time to time, as public sentiment urged the matter, appeals to the people of the State and to the country at large—were made toward obtaining legislative, or such Congressional action as would make Valley Forge a public charge and place it above a mere hand-to-mouth existence. Public opinion clearly demonstrated the necessity beyond the question of doubt that it not only should be, but that it was—the duty of the State to take under its protection these honored grounds, and not the little old house only—but the entire site of the encampment—some hundreds of acres, which would include the earth-works, entrenchments, forts and other points of historic interest in the locality. About this time there appeared upon the stage of action, Francis Mark Brooke of Philadelphia, who was at the head of an aggressive committee intent upon bringing the matter to a head. This committee was supported by the public press of the city and State, and by the arguments of influential citizens whose spirit and enterprise directed upon any public movement could

not be gainsaid. With this cumulative force behind it, Mr. Brooke and his committee succeeded in getting the bill through the legislature and the Act was passed and signed by Governor Pattison, May 30, 1893. Governor Pattison appointed the following gentlemen upon the Commission created by the Act of Assembly, viz:—

Joel J. Bailey, Philadelphia
John Cadwallader, Philadelphia
Charles C. Harrison, Philadelphia
Samuel Hartranft, Ft. Washington
Frederick D. Stone, Philadelphia,
Secretary
Daniel W. Howard, West Chester
Henry A. Muhlenburg, Reading
I. Heston Todd, Port Kennedy
Wm. Wayne, Paoli
Francis M. Brooke, Philadelphia.
President.

The jury to assess damages were:—S. Powell Childs, of Plymouth; Henry W. Kratz, of Norristown, and David Springer, of Royersford.

These bodies have had frequent sessions since their organization and already a great deal of work has been done. The encampment grounds have been carefully and entirely surveyed by Haupt and Franklin; and the work of purchasing properties within the bounds has been practically consummated, or at least, so far advanced as to admit of no doubt of an early completion.

Going back briefly to the time and the circumstances immediately preceding the march to and the occupation of Valley Forge—I shall try to relate something of the details, and the reasons for the selection of these bleak and remote hills for the winter quarters of the army. We know that adversities of all sorts followed the continental army from the time of its unfortunate defeat on the Brandywine; its consequent losses and the disappointment it brought to the country; the air of despair and

the prospect of inevitable disaster, casting its gathering shadows upon the hopes of the patriots' cause; these conditions to a leader less courageous than General Washington must have been discouraging indeed, but this man undismayed, unsubdued in spirit—had an abiding faith in a power above that of men, and he embraced every opportunity to emancipate the country from a relentless enemy whose cruel spirit showed itself at Paoli, in September, 1777, and which—for cold, wanton cruelty and savagery, was equal to the vengeance of the Indians—in the details of the massacre of a portion of General Wayne's division. Is it then any wonder that henceforth Wayne was called "Mad Anthony?" He could never rid his heart of that bitter memory. Then came the calamity at Chew's house in Germantown with Washington repulsed and in retreat to Whitemarsh while Lord Cornwallis marched victoriously on to occupy Philadelphia and bask in the sunshine of a prolific and radical Toryism. There, for the winter—he, and his officers, paid lavish attention to the dames and damsels, and enjoyed, for a season, the hospitalities of his enemy's capital.

During this period the American pickets encompassed the country from the Delaware to the Schuylkill rivers and watched for any opportunity, and employed every device,—to draw the British out of the city and give battle, but snugly established in pleasant quarters the enemy did no more than send out foraging parties and occasionally a skirmish party, both of which the Americans would fall upon and drive back—often with loss to the English forces. Thus harassed by the cutting of his lines of communication and supplies; and by an occasional annoyance from the Americans by attacks on his inner lines—Lord Howe planned a surprise by which he hoped to capture the American position, but the plans had been overheard by loyal Lydia Darragh and the scheme was frustrated.

Washington's exposed position at Whitemarsh was constantly open to attack: and as this sort of guerilla warfare continued between the two armies without any decisive action or the possibility of one,—the General, as winter approached, found it necessary to seek more sheltered and permanent quar-

ters for a winter cantonment. He was still assailed by toryism; criticised by those who should have been his friends; temporarily discouraged by desertions of his men, and chagrined by an unresponsive Congress after repeated appeals for clothing and food for his men, now he was almost overwhelmed by the vicissitudes of the campaign and the indifference of a lukewarm people. Calling a council of war and placing all these conditions before it—it was determined to withdraw from White-marsh and make winter camp in the sheltering hilly woodlands on the upper Schuylkill where Nature seemed to have raised an almost impregnable position at Valley Forge; and these conclusions were hastened by another unsuccessful attempt on his position near Chestnut Hill, on December 6th, 1777, by Lord Howe's forces. A week later Washington started on the march—leading his straggling army toward the Schuylkill and attempted to cross the river at Matson's Ford, but here the vanguard was driven back by a body of British dragoons. The army crossed, however, at Swedes Ford and came back to its objective, at Gulph Mills, the same night, and went into camp there temporarily while preparations were being made for a more permanent cantonment at Valley Forge.

“The Camp at Gulph Mills” as it is known in history—occupied a week. The place itself is peculiarly adapted by nature for just such a purpose. It is wild and picturesque; high wooded hills form great bulwarks in the range that runs off to the southwest, but pierced here by a narrow ravine through which flows the Gulph creek, and beside it the road leads to the valley beyond, and the farm settlements. Here, at the angle formed by the converging of several roads into the one running through the pass—is a memorial boulder erected by the Sons of the Revolution, about a year ago, to commemorate one of the darkest periods in the War for Independence. It is a monolith of trap-rock taken from the hillside in the neighborhood and of about twenty tons weight. Fastened to the face of this great rock a bronze tablet has been fixed which bears the following inscription:—

"Gulph Mills"

"The main Continental Army commanded by General George Washington encamped in this immediate vicinity from December 13 to December 19, 1777, before going in to winter quarters at Valley Forge."

"Erected by the Penna. Society of the Sons of the Revolution, 1890."

Washington brought to this place from Whitemarsh upwards of 12,000 men. They made a feint of crossing the river at Matson's Ford—now Conshohocken—in order to divert the attention of the enemy's outposts which infested the region below this point. It is said that the English army, under Lord Howe, also encamped at this place but a short time previous to this date, but I have seen no authority to confirm this tradition. While here the army was inspected and an effort made to recuperate it and put it in a condition to resume the march to Valley Forge. Here Washington issued the following address to his army in a general order, dated December 17, 1777.

"The Commander-in-Chief, with the highest satisfaction expresses his thanks to the Officers and Soldiers for their fortitude and patience with which they have sustained the fatigue of the campaign. Although in some respects we unfortunately failed, yet upon the whole—Heaven has smiled upon our arms and crowned us with signal success, and we may upon the best ground, conclude that by a spirited continuance of the measures necessary for our defence, we shall finally attain the end of our warfare, independence, liberty and peace."

The old mill which, at that time, had stood for fifty years—did good service for the camp, but it is now in a ruinous condition though still in use. Away up in the peak of the roadside gable one may read the inscription:

"GULF MILLS, 1747"

Down through the rocky glen where the creek rushes and the road runs—the flanking hills rise, on either side, in almost sheer precipices. They bristle with jagged, projecting rocks; patches of laurel and stunted oaks find scanty lodgement in the crevices. Here too, midway of the glen—is the great "Over-

hanging Rock" said to have been partially undermined by the soldiers to widen the way and let the army pass through the defile without wading the creek. Here, in summer, the atmosphere is always several degrees cooler than the air outside. The army followed this road;—it is an old one—having been opened early as a trail to the German settlements on the Perkiomen and given the name of "Gulph Road" from the fact of its course through the pass described above. Some distance beyond this the road crosses the Gulph creek as it curves back to the hills and flows toward the Schuylkill. The bridge which carries the road over this stream is curious in its way, and I note it because it has stood since the infancy of the Republic. It is built of stone and bears this inscription:—

"Erected by Montgomery County 1789
In The 2nd Year of the Foederel Union."

A mile or so beyond this place we enter the Chester Valley—long known as a farming district of exceeding fertility, and of lime burners, and marble quarries where creaking derricks and gashes in the face of the earth reveal the progress of a modern industry. A short ride brings one to the little cross-roads village called "The King of Prussia," and a time honored inn of the same name from which swings the sign of "Frederick the Great," is so called from the fact that here Baron Steuben was wont to call for his liquid refreshments; but the tavern is supposed to date from 1769 and was well patronized by roysterers of the camp near by. Near at hand is the old Great Valley Meeting, and from thence a couple of miles farther, brings one to the Letitia Penn school house at the base of the Valley Forge Hill. About us are the old dwellings once in use by the staff officers of Washington while the army was in camp there. There is the Abijah Stephens farm house where Gen. Huntingdon was quartered with his division. There are the old quarters of Generals Varnum and DeKalb, and close at hand the section where the soldiers reared their huts on the sunny slopes which sheltered them from the bleak and chilling north-west winds.

Turning to the left one rides down Washington Lane toward Valley creek but stopping for a few moments at the

thicket-grown Fort Washington and though overgrown with undergrowth and timber it still preserves the form in which it was left over a century ago. A rough road leads one around the base of the hill to the warm, sheltered ravine through which flows the Valley creek. Two comfortable looking stone dwellings near-by and now occupied by Mrs. Mary Jones and Richard Peterson, were once the domiciles of General Knox and Gen. LaFayette respectively. An ancient covered bridge crosses the creek at this point and the road leads along the creek coursing between the towering hills whose wild scenery and inspiring beauty rival the Wissahickon. Presently a sign appears on the roadside indicating that here was the location of the original forge that was erected in 1757 and was destroyed by the English early in 1777; rebuilt in 1779, and eventually disappeared by the damming up of the creek when mills were erected in the village below. The iron used at this forge is said to have been brought from Warwick furnace, on the south branch of the French creek, several miles away. From this place an old woodland road leads up toward the summit of the hills and the line of intrenchments, or such of them as still remain to be seen, and from this elevated position a fine view is had of the surrounding country. The two higher peaks here are, according to the legendry of the neighborhood—named Mount Joy and Mount Misery; the latter so called by the soldiers because of their wretched condition while in camp, but the other name was that of the manor of Mt. Joy—the style used by Letitia Penn in referring to her patrimony. Skirting the edge of the mill-pond in a few moments one enters the village of Valley Forge which is scattered about the cross roads. Two or three mills lay along the stream but they have ceased to operate and the hamlet seems lifeless thereby. A few rods down the quiet thoroughfare one draws rein before the old stone headquarters of the immortalized Washington and in a moment receives a pleasant welcome from Ellis Hampton, the custodian of the place. Following him into the grounds one finds not a half-neglected spot as one is led to suppose from current report, but a well-cared-for premises. In the process of its restoration the dwelling has been repaired along original lines and has a pleasing freshness

and cleanliness that harmonizes with the spirit of the old Quaker owner of it in Revolutionary days.

When the old mansion passed into the hands of the Memorial Association it came from a family who had been in possession of it since 1759, though not in direct descent. At the time of my visit to it the property consisted of two or more acres of land laid down in lawn and well shaded by fruit and forest trees, with the house standing well forward toward the street. Unfortunately, however, the custodian's residence was built in an angle of the lawn close to the highway which partially obscures a view of the headquarters when approached from the main corners of the village. Though the cottage is prettily designed and comfortable looking, it is of the "Eastlake" type and very much at variance with the simple colonial design of the mansion. The latter is built of flat stone of uniform thickness and neatly pointed. It is two and a half stories, square in form with high pitched roof and a wide projecting cornice that extends all the way around the house. The building is not large, having but four apartments, divided on the first floor by a main hall extending from front to the rear. On one side of the dwelling is a kitchen addition separated from the main building, by an arched roofed areaway. At the time of Washington's occupancy and the number of attendants and officers that had business with him it was found to be insufficient in size, so that a log structure was added to the kitchen wing thus forming an "L" arrangement in the ground plan. The sash and the glass in them; the doors and their frames; the fireplaces and other details remain pretty much the same as when Washington lived there. But it is odd, that, at this day, one meets with the peculiar halved-doors that were so common in the earlier days. They are the "Dutch" doors of the past centuries. The main entrance door and the curious hooded canopy over it are reminiscent of the Germantown type and where they are now mostly found.

Your guide takes you first into the east room which is practically the museum. This was the office of the great commander. His table stood by the window which had a secret recess, and where the General kept his private papers. It was in this room that Washington planned his coming campaign, con-

ferred with his officers, and had secret sessions when occasion required. In one corner stands a fine grandfather's clock faithfully ticking away the hours as it did in the "times that tried men's souls." The same corner cupboards and the mantels are there; and the walls are covered with a miscellaneous assortment of picture and engravings illustrative of other historic days and places. Heirlooms of local families, and the treasure-trove of relics and bric-a-brac garnish the shelves wherever lodgment can be found for them—swords, battle axes, cannon-balls, powder horns, tomahawks, pewter, china, Sheffield plate and household stuff, and furniture of our forefathers from old England, Wales, Sweden and Holland. These all help us to the realization of the character of the people of the early settlements hereabout. In another room is a collection of engravings, studies of Washington by a variety of artists among whom are found those of Trumbell, Stuart, and other notables who sketched him at the different periods of his career. There were 38 of them covering almost all the walls of the room and representing the great chieftain from the year 1772 to 1798. There are copies by the Peales, Werthmuller, Brehan, Gulagher and one by Lieut. Parker of the Guards—which pictures Washington as an invalid with bandaged throat, and is said to bear a close resemblance to the original. In every room of the house there is something interesting to be found, and to enumerate would occupy too much time and space, but all more or less associated with the story of the occupancy of the old headquarters by Washington. The collection of portraits and engravings, I understand, was the gift of Julius F. Sache, the well-known writer and antiquary.

Passing into the log-cabin one is told of the mysterious tunnel, cave or dungeon, or whatever it may be—that lies beneath it. Lights are brought and the guide pilots the way down a dark, damp stairway into a dismal subterranean chamber some thirty odd feet below the surface, and tell us of the local tradition which asserts that from it a secret passage lead to the Schuylkill river and offered a means of escape in an emergency. To me the vault appeared to have been used as a milk room such as many of the farmers have on their premises to cool the

milk. In this one however, there was an arched doorway to a passage that is said to have lead to a spring in the meadow on the riverside, but when the railroad cut its right-of-way through the property the passage was destroyed and the entrance to it walled up.

On the lawn in front, opposite the main entrance—are two cannon each inscribed with the royal signet of George III. Apparently these were the trophies of war taken by our George I. Upon the adjoining property recently acquired and made part of the reservation—stands the old barn which originally belonged to the Potts premises. This is also of stone and seemingly as durable as the dwelling; this building was used by Washington as a hospital during the cantonment. Near by is the home of Mrs. Hattie Mews, a granddaughter of James Jones who became possessed of a portion of the headquarters property by a transfer from Isaac Potts since those historic days. She generously gave me particulars relating to the changes in title from time to time and some of its traditions. She showed me deeds from Thomas and Richard Penn who inherited the great tracts of land in this region from their mother, and sister—Letitia Aubrey. I was also shown some fine specimens of Dublin ware and Royal Worcester that were brought to this country by her Welsh forefathers.

When James Jones took possession of his portion of the camp grounds and began to clear it he gather up, it is said—several tons of cannon balls which he carted off to some convenient furnace in the locality.

Having concluded my visit to the old camp-grounds I returned home by way of the old Gulph Road which bisects the reservation, and ascending Carter's Hill—as the incline is locally called—come upon the earth-works in the woodland on the summit of the ridge. The lines extend entirely around the eastern slope of the hill to the Valley creek approach, and they are easily followed though much overgrown with scrub timber and vegetation. The summit of Mt. Joy has an altitude of about 420 feet above sea level, and the view from it of the surrounding country is very entrancing and picturesque. Much of the Carter estate is in a wild condition. Bushes and briars abound

and getting over it is very difficult. The redoubts are still visible and may easily be found. In a portion of the lowlands, now abandoned fields—there are said to be many graves of the soldiers who perished from exposure or died from their wounds, or could not recover from the desperate results of the preceding campaign. Of these only a few mounds have been found, as many were hastily buried and no trace is now left of the place of their interment. Fort Huntingdon lies near the Port Kennedy road, its slopes and breast-works are well preserved, but it too, is well hidden by forest growth. The Star Redoubt is easily seen from the roadside and seems to have suffered less from the processes of nature than the other military forms of defense. Here and there on the south slopes may be seen an occasional pit where once the soldiers' huts had stood.

From the heights above one looks down upon a spot where the American standard proudly floats over the quaint old house nestling in the sequestered vale. I linger awhile to commune with a spirit which tells of a destiny for it which a nation will guard, defend and honor such as no other shrine in America will receive. A day when its precious memories will be revived and commemorated throughout the land—for here many a veteran suffered and famished and then turned out on his last review; and some to lie there for all time—a human sacrifice to freedom, and for liberty for the oppressed of every land. This is the legacy he bequeaths to posterity—that these beautiful grounds may be held in remembrance of them and become an object of love in every patriotic heart, that those who are living today may defend and enjoy the blessings for which they fought and bled and died—these consecrated heroes of Valley Forge.

Note—This paper was read by S. G. Smyth at the reunion of the Historical Societies of Chester, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, at Hatboro, Pa., July 17, 1894. It was afterward mislaid and only recently found. It should have been printed among the papers in the first volume of sketches, published in 1895.

THE PERKIOMEN COPPER MINES AT AUDUBON

SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE DIRECTORS

of the

PERKIOMEN CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY

(Shannonville, now Audubon)

to

THE STOCKHOLDERS

Made May 4, 1853

Office No. 73 South Fourth Street

Philadelphia.

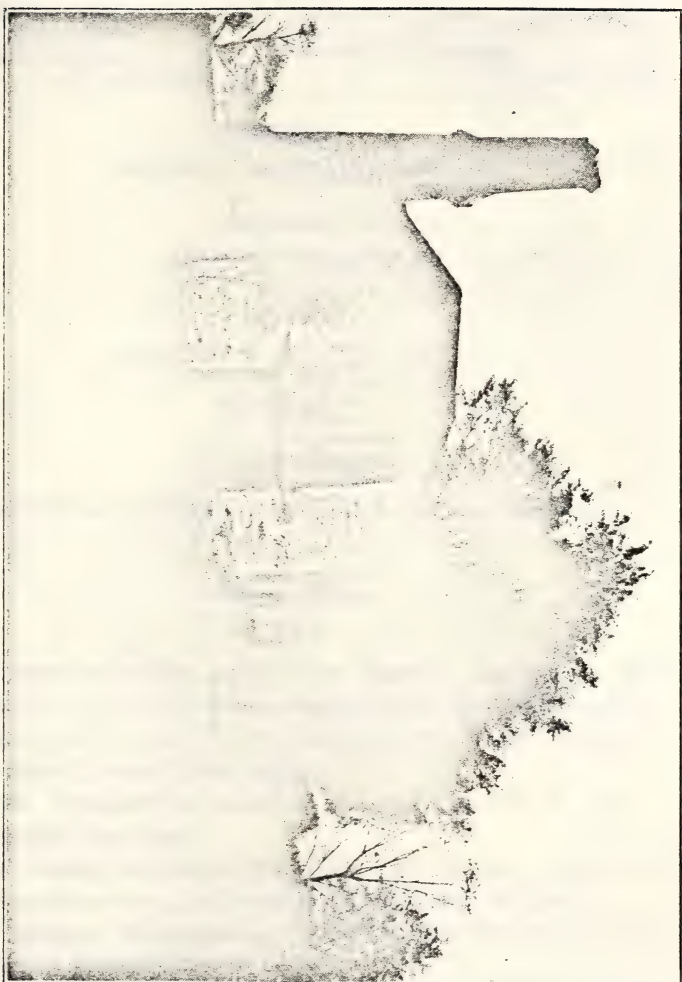
PHILADELPHIA:

Crissy & Markley, Printers, Goldsmiths Hall, Library Street,

1853

Fac-simile copy of the Company's pamphlet issued May 4, 1853.

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POWER HOUSE AT COPPER MINES OF IPERKIONMEN

PERKIOMEN CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY
DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

George Cadwallader

Samuel F. Tracy, of New York

Charles Macalester

Robert W. Lowber,

David Longenecker,
of Lancaster, Pa.

of New York

President

GEORGE CADWALLADER

Secretary

SAMUEL WILCOX

Manager

MATTHEW ROGERS, JR.

EXTRACT

of Proceedings of

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS;

May 4, 1853.

Pursuant to public notice, the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Perkiomen Consolidated Mining Company, was held at their office, No. 73 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia, on the 4th day of May, 1853.

C. M. Wheatley was called to the chair, and R. W. Lowber appointed Secretary.

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors, together with the accompanying statements, was read and accepted.

On motion, the following Preamble and Resolution was unanimously adopted, to wit:

Whereas, it appears by the Report of the Directors this day presented, that the successful working of the mines will require a further and larger expenditure of money than can be expected to be realized from the yield of the mines, therefore

Resolved, That power be and the same is hereby given to the Board of Directors, to make such further call upon the Stockholders as they may deem necessary, such call, however, not to exceed one dollar per share.

On motion, the meeting proceeded to an election for five Directors, when John Fausset and Edward Remington were appointed Judges; who reported that the following persons were duly elected for the ensuing year, viz.:

George Cadwallader

Charles Macalester

David Longenecker

Samuel F. Tracy

R. W. Lowber.

The Meeting then adjourned.

C. M. Wheatley,
Chairman.

R. W. Lowber, Secretary.

The Directors chosen at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders held May 4th, 1853, met at the office of the Company on the same day, and unanimously elected

GEORGE CADWALLADER, President

On motion adjourned.

SAMUEL WILCOX, Secretary.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

To the Stockholders of the

Perkiomen Consolidated Mining Company

At a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, held November 24th, 1852, a resolution was adopted, authorizing the Board of Directors to sell the 10,280 shares of stock, then held by the Company, and to increase the capital stock, by calling in an instalment, sufficiently large to pay off the debt, and to defray the expenses of working the mines.

In conformity with which resolution, after obtaining the opinion of counsel, the said stock was offered for sale at par, for ten days, at the office of the Company, notice of which was published in the newspapers, and also sent to each Stockholder; not being taken within that period, it was placed in the hands of Messrs. M. Thomas & Sons, auctioneers, and sold on the 28th of December, 1852, at the Philadelphia Exchange, to the highest bidders, as per the account sales herewith submitted, the net proceeds of which are credited in the statement of receipts and expenditures.

Since the sale, an instalment of one dollar per share has been called in, payable on the first days of February, March, April and May, 1853, producing in all the sum of \$50,000, of which there has been received to the 30th ultimo, \$38,716. Twenty thousand dollars of this sum were required to pay the debts of the Company, and the balance was used in defraying the current expenses; the amount yet due on the instalment is \$11,284, which will be expended in about three months from this time; it gives the Board pleasure to say, that all the debts of the Company are now paid.

The Report of the Manager is also submitted, from which it appears that a period of eight months must necessarily elapse before sales of mineral to any considerable extent can be made, it will therefore be necessary to provide means for the ensuing year, by calling in another instalment of the capital stock.

The receipts from sales of 143 tons of ore, raised and sold during the past year, amounted to \$9,989.39.

The President, accompanied by Mr. Tracy, one of the Directors, visited the mines on the second instant, and made a thorough examination of the works, both above and under ground; they were much gratified with the management of Captain Rogers, and agree with him in the statements made in his report, and in the opinion expressed as regards the improvement of the mines in the lower levels.

For the Board of Directors,

GEORGE CADWALLADER, President.

Philadelphia, May 4th, 1853.

The Perkiomen Consolidated Mining Company
Receipts and Expenses for the Year Ending April 30, 1853

RECEIPTS, DR.

Balance in the Treasury, April 30th, 1852 ..	\$1,746.62
Capital stock, proceeds of 10,280 shares sold at auction	2,433.80
Sales of Ores, 143 tons	9,989.39
Instalment, on account of instalment of \$1 per share, amounting to \$50,000	38,716.00
	\$52,885.81

EXPENDITURES, CR.

Labor and materials	\$38,742.40
Machinery, including repairs	2,612.42
Iron and steel	841.77
Lumber	1,832.99
Taxes on charter, capital and property	1,165.90
Salaries of Manager and Secretary	2,225.00
Interest on loans	1,001.82
Rents of mining leases, wharf and office ...	683.34
Freight on ores, 298 tons	603.70
Insurance on ores	40.49
Assays of ores	109.00
Engraving sections for annual report and printing report	185.25
Fire proof chest	130.00
Stationery and mathematical instruments .	65.09
Counsel fee	28.00
Duty and charges on materials imported ..	212.00
Field of wheat and rye at Mill Grove	200.00
Expenses of Manager from England	212.14
Contingent expenses, traveling, telegraphing postage, advertising, tolls, &c.	298.76
	\$51,184.07
Balance on hand	1,701.74
	\$52,885.81

REPORT OF THE MANAGER

To the Board of Directors of the Perkiomen
Consolidated Mining Company.

Gentlemen:—I hand you the following Report of the operations
at the Mines during the year ending May 1st, 1853.

PERKIOMEN MINE

The Engine Shaft has been sunk during the year, Twelve
fathoms below the fifty fathom level, at a cost of \$2,311.16, or

\$192.37 per fathom, including materials. The pent-house, at the fifty-fathom level, is taken out, the shaft cased and divided to the sixty fathom level. There is, also, nearly sufficient ground cut for the cistern platt, and a thirteen inch drawing lift in readiness, which will be fixed at the sixty fathom level, about two weeks from this time.

The 10 Fathom Level has been driven west of the engine shaft fifty-three fathoms three feet ten inches, at a cost of \$838.73, averaging \$15.63 per fathom, materials included. The lode varies from one to five feet in width, is composed of gossan and quartz, with occasional stones of ore. This level having been extended west of the whim shaft on the Ecton Hill, seventy-three fathoms, and the forty fathom level driven east from Ecton engine shaft, a considerable distance, through poor ground. It is thought that the indications at this point, will not warrant further continuation of this level.

The 10 Fathom Level has been driven east of the engine shaft thirty-five fathoms, one foot six inches, at a cost of \$442.72, or \$12.51 per fathom, including materials. The first twenty-nine fathoms driving, the lode varies from four feet to six inches in width, with gossan, quartz and spots of copper pyrites, the last six fathoms driving being in disordered ground. The operations here have been suspended, waiting the result of the cross-cuts driving north and south, at the twenty fathom level, which is extended thirty-four fathoms beyond this end.

The 20 Fathom Level has been driven west of the engine shaft, forty-five fathoms, three feet four inches, at a cost of \$1,045.17, or \$22.94 per fathom, including materials. The lode varies from two to seven feet in width, composed of gossan, quartz, with carbonate and sulphuret of copper; we have taken the men out of this end to divide and case the Perkiomen engine shaft below the fifth fathom level, when this is completed, we will resume operations here.

The 20 Fathom Level has been cleared, secured and driven east of the engine shaft, twenty-six fathoms two feet ten inches through disordered ground, at a cost of \$279.21, or \$10.49 per fathom, at this point we are driving cross cuts north and south, with a view to intersect the lode that was last seen in this level,

thirty-two fathoms from said end; these cross-cuts are driven ten fathoms one foot eleven inches, at a cost of \$324.52, or \$31.50 per fathom, including materials; we have not seen any indication of the lode in either cross-cut, thus far. Strata ground in each end, at present, red shale.

The 40 Fathom Level has been driven west of the engine shaft, twenty-four fathoms four inches, at a cost of \$800.82, or \$33.34 per fathom, including materials. The lode varies from four to eight feet in width, is composed of gossan and quartz, with the present end yielding good stones of ore.

The 50 Fathom Level has been driven west of the engine shaft, twelve fathoms, four feet nine inches, at a cost of \$479.26, or \$37.48 per fathom, including materials. The lode is ten feet wide, mostly quartz with copper pyrites in places.

The 50 Fathom Level has been driven east of the engine shaft, forty-six fathoms two feet ten inches, at a cost of \$1,718.07, or \$36.97 per fathom, including materials. The lode varies from four to eighteen feet in width, is composed of gossan and quartz, thinly charged with red oxide of copper, with occasionally small specimens of native copper, also producing large stones of rich copper ore throughout, the strata ground adjoining being white killas; these indications, together with the large quantity of water rising out of the bottom of this end and level, hold out every inducement to think that the lode will be very productive for mineral at this part of the mine at a further depth.

ECTON MINE

The Engine Shaft has been sunk twelve fathoms ten inches under the fifty-four fathom level, at a cost of \$2,357.66, or \$194.22 per fathom, including materials. A platt is cut at the sixty-six fathom level, pent house put in, the shaft cased and divided, and the necessary footways fixed from the fifty-four to the sixty-six fathom levels; the shaft is now about two fathoms below the level, the ground cut for the cistern platt, the bearers for the cistern put in, with a ten-inch drawing lift ready to be fixed in the cistern at the sixty-six fathom level, to supply the ten-inch plunger at the fifty-four; this work will be

completed this week, when we shall resume sinking at once, for our next level.

The 66 Fathom Level has been driven east and west of the engine shaft, twelve fathoms two inches, at a cost of \$607.06, or \$50.46 per fathom. The lode varies from three to eight feet in width, and there is a decided improvement as regards its size and quality, from any of the levels above, in the western end, for the last two fathoms driving, the lode is eight feet wide, with a very promising appearance, although at present poor; nine fathoms has been driven through ore ground, yielding mineral to the value of \$100 per fathom.

The 54 Fathom Level has been driven west of the engine shaft, eighteen fathoms, three feet four inches, at a cost of \$636.05, or \$34.21 per fathom, including materials; lode three feet wide, composed of quartz, spotted with copper pyrites; it has also been driven east of the engine shaft, two fathoms five feet three inches, at a cost of \$100.61, or \$35 per fathom; lode in present end, small and poor.

United Mine:—The adit level has been cleared and driven two fathoms four feet four inches west. The lode in present end, poor and small.

At the Shearer Farm, the shaft has been sunk to a further depth of three fathoms, also driven west on the course of the lode, thirty fathoms five feet, at a cost of \$249.17, or \$7.46 per fathom, including materials. The lode varies from two to five feet in width; composed of gossan, with occasional spots of yellow copper; we were compelled by the water, to abandon operations here during the winter, but the indications of the lode being well worthy of attention, we expect shortly to resume work.

DRIVAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

An examination of the statement annexed will show the amount of ground excavated the past year to have been 846 fathoms, 2 feet 10 inches, at a cost of \$18,944.61, or \$23.03 per fathom, as average cost of ground spent, materials included; the average cost of sinking the engine shafts being \$193.23; levels and winzes \$26.64; ground on tribute \$9.80.

MATERIALS

The value of materials on the mines, as coal, iron, powder, fuze, candles, &c., May 1st, 1853, is \$3,248.14, as per statement on file in office.

REAL AND PERSONAL ESTATE

The total value of the real and personal estate of the Company at the mines may be estimated as follows:

Machinery at surface	\$30,212.00
Machinery under ground	10,498.63
Real estate, buildings, &c.	22,131.63
Materials on hand	3,248.14
	<hr/>
	\$66,090.40

On taking charge of the mines, 13th September, 1852, I found that all the ore ground that had been discovered was taken away, and the mines wretchedly poor. During the short time I have been here, my aim has been to sink the shafts and extend the deepest levels with all possible speed, which was the only resources to enable us to raise ore for the market, and the only way to make the mine a paying concern. The amount of copper and lead ores we have at surface is about 45 tons, value about \$2,900.00.

Without working the mines to a serious disadvantage, there will be but little probability of any considerable sales of ore for eight months from this date. My reasons are these, it will take fully that time to extend the 54 fathom level from the Ecton engine shaft to a proper distance to sink a winze for communication, so as to enable us to stope the ore ground discovered in the 66 fathom level; also to fix our lift at the Perkiomen Mine, cut the platt at the 60 fathom level, intersect the lode at this point, and extend the 60 fathom level to advantage.

For the safety and support of the machinery at the Perkiomen Mine, we are now building a balance bob which will be fixed at the surface, and connected to the main rod, that is attached to the bob of the Cornish engine, and expect to have it in operation in three weeks from this. The mines have now

the necessary machinery to sink the engine shafts twelve fathoms deeper.

Should the ground continue in the two shafts as at present, it will take until May, 1854, to see the lode at the next level in the Ecton Mine, also at the 70 fathom level in the Perkiomen Mine.

Our prospects are far more cheering than when I took charge of the mines; and it has always been my opinion that these lodes will prove productive in depth, looking at their regularity, size, strength, and defined character, the sudden and important improvement in size and quality of the lode in the last twelve fathoms sinking at the Ecton Mine, with the favorable indications we have before us in the fifty fathom level east in the Perkiomen Mine, I have little reason to doubt that my views will be realized.

Finally submitted,

MATTHEW ROGERS, JR.,
Manager.

PERKIOMEN CONSOLIDATED MINES,

May 1st, 1853.

APPENDIX I

The final disposition of the estate of John Roberts is given in the following Abstract of Deed which was kindly supplied us by Mr. Charles R. Barker, of Lansdowne, Pa., and is as follows:—

DEED. 1780, 16 December. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, per Joseph Reed, President of the Supreme Executive Council, to Edward Milner, New Britain, County of Bucks, gentlemen. XX 203.7.0. being three-fourths of purchase money or sum of 271.6.0., the remaining one-fourth to remain in the hands of purchaser, and to be charged on the premises as a yearly rent, as per the Act of General Assembly of 27 November, 1779, entitled "an Act to Confirm the Estates and Interest of the Colledge, Academy and Charitable School of the City of Philadelphia, and to Amend and Alter the Charters thereof Conformably to the Resolution and to the Constitution and Government of this Commonwealth and to erect the same into an University; etc.

Messuage and two tracts of land in Lower Merion.—

a. 300 acres, adjoining lands of William Lewis, next described tract, lands of Owen Jones, Benjamin Humphreys, Conrad Schitz, John Robinson, John Righter and Margaret Jones.

b. 78 acres, adjoining lands of Owen Jones, William Lewis and above described tract.

With grist-mill, paper-mill, saw-mill, etc.

Late the property of John Roberts, late of Lower Merion, miller, who was attainted, before a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, held at Philadelphia, 30 September, 1778, of having committed High Treason on the first day January, 1778, at the County aforesaid.

Yielding and paying to the Trustees of the University of State of Pennsylvania the yearly Rent of 135 4/5 bushels of wheat, by half yearly payments, forever; etc.

Attest—Ty. Matlack.

Recorded 5 September, 1781. Deed-Book D 3, pp. 72-5, County of Philadelphia. Ed.

HERSTEIN'S MEETING—ADDENDA TO VOLUME IV

By George F. P. Wanger

Referring to the article on Herstein's Meeting, in Vol. IV of the Sketches:

The deed for the property was given by Jacob Shoemaker and Magdalena his wife on Jan. 3, 1821, to Christian Stearly, Weaver, of Limerick; Abraham Bergey, Blacksmith, of same township; John Shoemaker, Miller, of Frederick, and George Adam Slonecker, "Joyner" of Frederick, Trustees of the "Universal School" of Limerick township, for the sole use, benefit and behoof of a School, Meeting-house and Burial ground of those contributing toward the building, repairing and keeping in repairs such necessary building thereto belonging as a majority of them shall from time to time direct.

The need of Bibles and religious books was keenly felt, which caused Herstein and Schmutz to journey to the "Fatherland" from which they had emigrated some years previously and procured five hundred Basel Bibles and five hundred copies of sermons by Rev. Jacob Denner, the pastor of the Hamburg-Altona Mennonite Church at Altona, Germany. These books they had printed at their own expense in Frankenthal-am-Rhein, in the Catholic printing house of Ludwig Bernhard Friedrich Gegel, then managed by his widow. This woman though a Catholic, was so impressed with the contents of these books that she declared "A ship bearing such books will never be lost at sea." From notes of Rev. N. B. Grubb, who also states:

"Rev. Jacob Denner, above referred to, prominent minister and an able writer was the son of Balthasar Denner, Minister of the Mennonite Church in Hamburg-Altona, Germany, who died there Dec. 15, 1681, in his 75th year. Jacob Denner was born Sept. 20, 1659. From his earliest life he was of a very studious turn of mind and lost no opportunity to gain know-

ledge. Already at the age of maturity he was an acknowledged authority in mathematics and astronomy, and in penmanship, for neatness and accuracy, he ranked second to none. He had scarcely grown to full manhood, when his father recognized in him abilities that needed a larger scope for development than could be obtained at home. Upon the earnest request of his father young Jacob left home to spend several years in extensive travels. His travels in Spain, Portugal and Italy and other countries in his day were considered very extensive. He finally turned in another direction and reached Moscow. From this point, upon the sudden death of his father he was called home. About two years later he was called to fill the vacancy caused by his father's death and for a period of sixty-two years he was a faithful exponent of the Gospel. During this time he preached for seven years in Lubeck, five years in Friederichstadt and four years in Danzig; giving forty-six years to the church at Altona. On Christmas day, 1745, about six weeks before his death he preached his last sermon on the Gospel of the Good Shepherd. On the 17th day of February 1746 he passed from labor to reward, from toil to rest, to be with the Saviour whom he glorified in life, at the age of 88 years, 4 months and 22 days. The sermons referred to above, were delivered in public services in the Altona Mennonite church and by special request were published, first in November 1730 and reprinted in Frankenthal-am-Rhein, 1792.

Of the inscriptions noted, page 229

David Berge was the son of Abraham and Maria (Halteman) Berge.

Maria Berge, was the dau. of John and Eva (Reiff) Herstein and wife of David.

Page 230.

Leo Berge, should be Lea Berge, her age was 3 yrs. 10 mo.

Freulan Berge, should be Fronica Berge.

Gottfried Gebler, should be Gottfried Sehler; he was a son of Gottfried and Catharine.

Catharine Gebler, should be Catharine Sehler.

Page 231.

Johannes Herstein. He came to America on Ship "Union" from Rotterdam, landing at Phila., Sept. 27, 1773; married 1st Catharine, dau. of Jacob and Catharine (Beary) Shantz (my great-great grand-parents). He married 2nd Eva, daughter of Christian Reiff.

Lathania Hunsberger, should be Catharine or Cathrina Hunsberger. She was the wife of Abraham and dau. of William Tyson.

Heinrich Kraus, was a son of Jeremias, both born and died Feb. 20, 1871.

Mary Keeler, was the dau. of Abraham and Catharine Hunsberger.

Page 232.

Mary Leister, was the wife of Daniel.

Catharine Leitcap, was the wife of Jacob.

Page 233.

Maria Schumacher, was the wife of John.

Magdaline Schumacher, was the wife of Jacob.

Benneville Sailor, was a son of Gottfried and Catharine "Sehler".

Philip Stearly, was married Mar. 2, 1790 to Mary, dau. of Christian and Mary Bergey.

Mary Ann Stearly was dau. of Phillip and Elizabeth (Bertolet), and granddaughter of Philip and Mary (Bergey) Stearly.

In addition the following persons are buried there, some of whose graves are not marked;

Catharine Bergey, wife of Isaac and dau. of William and Magdalena Gottschall, b. Feb. 13, 1818; d. Mar. 2, 1858.

Isaac Bergey, son of Abraham and Maria, b. May 4, 1809; d. May 13, 1860.

Angeline Fetter, b. June 28, 1854; d. July 12, 1881.

Mary Alice Heffelfinger, d. Mar. 29, 1882; a. 5-0-18.

Gertie Susan Heffelfinger, d. Mar. 30, 1882; a. 2-8-0.

Catharine Kraus, b. Aug. 2, 1795; d. Sept. 3, 1880; was the wife of Daniel.

Albert Lightcap, son of Ephraim and Emeline; b. Oct. 11, 1893; d. Sept. 25, 1914.

Augustus Lightcap, b. Aug. 17, 1832; d. Jun. 15, 1908; a. 75-10-0; was a son of Jacob and Catharine.

Gottfried Sehler (Sr.)

Elizabeth Umstead, whose inscription is given on page 234, was a daughter of Abraham and Catharine (Tyson) Hunsberger.

Trusting the foregoing may be of some use

Yours very truly,

GEO. F. P. WANGER.



JAMES MILNOR, ESQ.

James Milnor, Esq., came to Norristown from Philadelphia in 1794. Admitted to the bar and practiced his profession here for some years. One of the organizers of the old Norristown Library in 1794. Made a Mason in old Lodge No. 31 of this place—initiated in 1795—soon thereafter became its Worshipful Master. Married Eleanor, daughter of Henry Pawling, Esq., February 28, 1799, her father at the time was one of the County's foremost attorneys. Member of Congress 1810-1813. Lay reader in St. John's Episcopal Church, Norristown, and ordained a minister of the gospel in 1814. Died pastor of St. George Church, Beekman Street, New York, 1848.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December, 1915

HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the regular meeting. Eight have been so elected, of whom *three are deceased:

- *Colonel Nathaniel Missimer Ellis, Pottstown, Pa.
- *Mrs. Sarah Slengluff Rex, Norristown, Pa.
- Mrs. Alfred Dorr, Boston, Mass.
- Rev. J. S. Fry, Mt. Airy, Phila., Pa.
- *Captain Gwynn R. Hancock, Portsmouth, N. H.
- Edward Matthews, Lansdale, Pa.
- Mrs. Charles O. Pfeil, Memphis, Tenn.
- Edgar J. Pershing, Esq., Phila., Pa.

LIFE MEMBERS

Life members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County are elected on payment of twenty-five dollars into its treasury, provided they be elected in the same manner as an active member. Twenty-six have been so elected. Names of deceased life-members are marked with an asterisk.

- *Francis M. Brooke, Philadelphia, Pa.
- *Edward Elsenhans, Norristown, Pa.
- Joseph Fornance, Norristown, Pa.
- Mrs. Ellen Knox Fornance, Norristown, Pa.
- Samuel F. Jarrett, Jeffersonville, Pa.
- Edwin C. Jellett, Germantown, Phila., Pa.
- Horace C. Jones, Conshohocken, Pa.
- *Edward Clinton Lee, Haverford, Pa.
- Mrs. Annie McFarland Lukens, Conshohocken, Pa.
- *William McDermott, Norristown, Pa.

- Walter Ross McShea, Atlantic City, N. J.
Edward J. Pershing, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. W. H. Reed, Jeffersonville, Pa.
Mrs. Annie Jarrett Reed, Jeffersonville, Pa.
*Ellwood Roberts, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. Ellwood Roberts, Norristown, Pa.
Howard C. Roberts, Norristown, Pa.
Alice Roberts Robinson, Atlantic City, N. J.
George Shannon, Norristown, Pa.
Charles H. Shaw, Jeffersonville, Pa.
William Summers, Conshohocken, Pa.
William Henry Wetherill, Philadelphia, Pa.
*Mrs. Ellen M. White, Norristown, Pa.
*Thomas Williams, Ogontz, Pa.
*Morgan R. Wills, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. Alan Wood, Conshohocken, Pa.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Historical Society of Montgomery County Pennsylvania, are elected on receiving the votes of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting, and on payment of \$1.00 initiation fee. Annual dues are \$1.00.†

*Member deceased.

†Member resigned.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>†Abbott, Philip Wm., Norristown, Penna.
 Alexander, Mrs. H., Norristown, Penna.
 †Allebaugh, H. G., Worcester, Pa.
 Anders, Mrs. Amos S., R. D. 2, Norristown, Pa.
 Anders, Daniel M., Norristown, Pa.
 *Anders, George H., Norristown, Pa.
 Anders, Dr. Warren Z., Trappe, Penna.
 †Angle, Rev. C. M., Norristown, Pa.
 †Arnold, Dr. Herbert A., Ardmore, Penna.
 Arthur, I. Warren, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
 †Ashmead, Miss Elizabeth M., Philadelphia, Pa.</p> | <p>Boorse, Miss Susan A., Norristown, Penna.
 Borneman, Henry S., Esq., Overbrook, Pa.
 Bowman, General Wendall P., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Boyer, Ella S., Norristown, Pa.
 Boyer, J. Frank, Norristown, Pa.
 Boyer, Louis B., Norristown, Pa.
 †Brandt, Harvey S., Norristown, Penna.
 Bray, Charles W., King-of-Prussia, Penna.
 Brecht, George K., Norristown, Pa.
 Brecht, Samuel R., Norristown, Pa.
 Brendle, Rev. D. D., Worcester, Pa.
 Brooke, Major General John R., Rosemont, Pa.
 Brown, Mrs. N. Howland, Norristown, Pa.
 Brownback, Henry M., Norristown, Penna.
 Brueckmann, Mrs. Wm., Norristown, Pa.
 Buchanan, Mrs. A. S., Norristown, Penna.
 Buckenham, Dr. J. E. Burnett, Chestnut Hill, Pa.
 *Buckman, Mrs. Mary Ann, Norristown, Pa.
 Burgin, Dr. Herman, Germantown, Phila., Pa.
 Burk, Rev. W. Herbert, Valley Forge, Pa.
 Burns, Charles N., Philadelphia, Penna.
 Bussa, H. K., Norristown, Pa.</p> |
|---|--|
- Baird, Thomas E., Haverford, Pa.
 *Bardin, Mrs. Ida T., Norristown, Penna.
 †Bardman, I. H., Schwenksville, Pa.
 Barnsley, Miss Adella, Beth Ayres, Penna.
 Bean, Howell E., Ashbourne, Pa.
 Bean, Theodore Lane, Trooper Road, Pa.
 Bean, Mrs. Theodore W., Conshohocken, Pa.
 †Beaver, Mrs. D. R., Conshohocken, Penna.
 Beck, Miss Clara A., Centre Square, Penna.
 Beeber, Rev. Thomas R., Norristown, Pa.
 †Bernhard, Clarence A., Gwynedd Valley, Pa.
 Bertolet, Benjamin, Philadelphia Penna.
 Bertolet, Daniel H., Pottstown, Pa.
 Bertolet, Ira D., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Bertolet, Walter B., Philadelphia, Penna.
 Beyer, Miss Emma C., Norristown, Penna.
 Beyer, Westley B., Norristown, Pa.
 *Bickel, John W., Norristown, Pa.
 Boggs, Edward T., Norristown, Pa.
 Bomberger, Augustus W., Norristown, Pa.
 *Boorse, John C., Kulpsville, Pa.
 Boorse, Miss M. Katharine, Norristown, Pa.

† Initiation fee including dues have since been changed to \$2.00 a year.

- *Clark, Charles Heber, Conshohocken, Pa.
 *Clevenger, Kate C., Ardmore, Pa.
 Cliff, Mrs. W. W., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cloud, Charles F., Norristown, Pa.
 Coleman, H. C., Norristown, Pa.
 Coleman, Mrs. Philip E., Norristown, Pa.
 Cooke, George J., Ambler, Pa.
 Cooper, Elizabeth Y., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cornell, Mrs. Stephen, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Cormack, Christian C., Port Providence, Pa.
 Cornish, Dr. S. D., Collegeville, Pa.
 Corson, George, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 Corson, Mrs. George, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 Corson, Walter H., Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 *Craig, Mrs. Anna H., Norristown, Pa.
 Craig, W. W., Norristown, Pa.
 Craig, Mrs. W. W., Norristown, Pa.
 Crankshaw, John H., Norristown, Pa.
 Cranor, Mrs. Henry D., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Crawford, Miss Anna M., Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, Miss Frances E., Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, Rev. John A., Norristown, Pa.
 Crawford, J. Craig, Norristown, Pa.
 *Crawford, Joseph C., West Conshohocken, Pa.
 Cresson, Francis Macomb, Ardmore, Pa.
 Cresson, Mrs. Francis, Ardmore, Pa.
 Cresson, Nancy Corson, Norristown, Pa.
 Cresson, Mrs. Tacy F., Norristown, Pa.
 Cruger, Miss Eliza, Norristown, Pa.
- Dambly, B. W., Skippack, Pa.
 Davis, Captain George S., Ft. Washington, Pa.
 Davis, Ida, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Davis, Reese P., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Davis, Mrs. Reese P., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Davis, Miss S. Ella, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Davis, William S., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Denis, Miss Helena N., Chester, Pa.
 *Dettra, A. W., Norristown, Pa.
 Dettra, John M., Norristown, Pa.
 Develin, Mrs. John F., Bala, Pa.
 Difenderfer, Hon. R. E., Wyncote, Pa.
 Dill, Mrs. W. W., Norristown, Pa.
 Dyer, Mrs. John T., Norristown, Pa.
- Eastwick, Abram T., Norristown, Pa.
 Eavenson, Francis V., Oaks, Pa.
 Eckfeldt, Jacob B., Ambler, Pa.
 Eckfeldt, Mrs. Jacob B., Ambler, Pa.
 *Eisenberg, Mrs. P. Y., Norristown, Pa.
 Eisenhart, George H., Skippack, Pa.
 Eisenhart, Mrs. George H., Skippack, Pa.
 Ellis, David M., Bridgeport, Pa.
 Ellis, Mrs. David M., Bridgeport, Pa.
 †Evans, Miss Elizabeth, Norristown, Pa.
 Evans, Mrs. Henry L., Norristown, Pa.
 Evans, Joseph S., Gwynedd Valley, Pa.
 Evans, Rev. L. K., Pottstown, Pa.
 Evans, Miller D., Pottstown, Pa.
 *Evans, Mrs. Miller D., Pottstown, Pa.
 Evans, Montgomery, Norristown, Pa.
 *Evans, Rowland, Haverford, Pa.
 †Evans, Mrs. Rowland, Haverford, Pa.
 Ervien, Mrs. J. Horace, Wyncote, Pa.
- Farnum, Mrs. Mary C., Norristown, Pa.
 Farrell, Miss Laura F., Atlantic City, N. J.
 Fegeley, Rev. W. O., Trappe, Pa.
 Fell, Miss M. Bertha, Norristown, Pa.
 Fell, Percy J., Norristown, Pa.
 Fisher, Mrs. H. H., Norristown, Pa.
 Fisher, Irwin, Norristown, Pa.
 Fisher, Mrs. Irwin, Norristown, Pa.
 Fisher, Miss M. K., Norristown, Pa.
 Fitzwater, Joseph, Port Providence, Pa.
 Fluke, Mrs. J. E., Woodside, Del.
 Fluke, John Erwin, Jr., Norwood, Pa.
 Fox, Miss Frances Macomb, Norristown, Pa.
 Fox, Gilbert S., Norristown, Pa.
 Francis, Mrs. H. H., Ambler, Pa.
 Francis, John W., Sr., Oaks, Pa.
 Fridy, Samuel H., Pottstown, Pa.
 Fry, Sarah E., Belfry, Pa.
 Fulmer, Mrs. R. K., Norristown, Pa.
- Ganser, H. H., Norristown, Pa.
 Ganser, Malcolm H., Norristown, Pa.
 Gearhart, William M., Norristown, Pa.
 Gearhart, Mrs. William M., Norristown, Pa.
 Gerhard, Miss Hannah, Norristown, Pa.
 Gerhard, Mrs. Marvin S., Norristown, Pa.

- Gibson, M. M., Esq., Norristown, Penna.
 Gilbert, Dr. Irwin B., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Gotwals, Amos G., Phoenixville, Penna.
 *Gougler, Benjamin F., Norristown, Pa.
 Grater, Abram G., Norristown, Pa.
 Greger, Katharine L., Norristown, Penna.
 Gresh, Mrs. Edward P., Norristown, Pa.
 Gresh, Mrs. H. C., Norristown, Pa.
 *Groff, Dr. Henry G., Harleysville, Penna.
 Grubb, Rev. N. B., Philadelphia, Penna.
 Gummey, Rev. Henry R., East Downingtown, Pa.
- Hackman, Miss Anna T., Philadelphia, Pa.
 *Hackman, George W., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Hallman, Linwood L., Esq., Norristown, Pa.
 Hallowell, Mrs. Hetty Y., Phoenixville, Pa.
 Hallowell, Mrs. R. T. S., Swedeland, Pa.
 Harry, A. Markley, Norristown, Penna.
 *Harry, David W., Conshohocken, Penna.
 Harry, Mrs. David W., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Harry, Mrs. John W., Norristown, Penna.
 Harry, Winfield S., Conshohocken, Penna.
 Harry, Mrs. Winfield S., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Hartranft, Miss Annie, Norristown, Penna.
 Hartranft, Mrs. Sally D., Norristown, Penna.
 Hartranft, Samuel S., Norristown, Penna.
 Hartranft, Mrs. Samuel S., Norristown, Pa.
 Hauck, J. K., Pottstown, Pa.
 Heacock, Hon. Joseph, Wyncote, Penna.
 Heckler, Franklin M., Elizabethtown, Pa.
 Heebner, David S., Norristown, Pa.
 Heebner, William D., Lansdale, Penna.
 Hendricks, Mark Y., Pottstown, Penna.
 Herbert, Mrs. Milton P., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Heysham, Rev. Theodore, Norristown, Pa.
 Highley, Dr. George N., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Hill, James A., Norristown, Pa.
 Hocker, Edward W., Germantown, Penna.
 †Holmes, Joshua M., Philadelphia, Penna.
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 *Hoover, Hon. Hiram C., Hooverton, Pa.
 Horn, Dr. David Wilbur, Brynmawr, Pa.
 *Hough, Oliver, Newtown, Pa.
 Huber, Frank F., Pennsburg, Pa.
 Hughes, John J., Norristown, Pa.
 Hunsberger, Dr. J. Newton, Norristown, Pa.
 Hunsicker, Mrs. Charles, Norristown, Pa.
 Hunter, Ashley P., Norristown, Pa.
 Huston, Miss Elizabeth, Norristown, Pa.
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 *James, Walter M., Philadelphia, Penna.
 James, Mrs. Walter M., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Jamison, Thomas J., Norristown, Penna.
 *Jarrett, Mrs. A. F., Norristown, Penna.
 Jarrett, Charles, Norristown, Pa.
 Jarrett, Mrs. Charles, Norristown, Penna.
 Jarrett, John H., Norristown, Pa.
 Jenkins, Herbert G., Gwynedd, Pa.
 Jenkins, J. P. Hale, Esq., Norristown, Pa.
 Jenkins, Walter H., Gwynedd, Pa.
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 Jones, Mrs. A. Conrad, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Jones, Joseph C., Conshohocken, Penna.
 Jones, Mrs. Joseph C., Conshohocken, Pa.
- Kauffman, John R., Jr., Sunbury, Penna.
 Keller, Lillian S., Norristown, Pa.
 Kelly, Mrs. C. E., Ambler, Pa.
 Kepner, Sydney R., Pottstown, Pa.
 Keys, Mrs. Emma, Conshohocken, Penna.
 Kistler, Rev. William V., Pennsburg, Pa.
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 Kite, Mrs. George R., Norristown, Penna.
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 Kneule, Albrecht, Norristown, Pa.
 Knipe, Irvin P., Esq., Norristown, Penna.
 Knipe, Mrs. Irvin P., Norristown, Penna.
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 Kratz, Henry W., Norristown, Pa.
 *Kratz, Mrs. Henry W., Norristown, Pa.
 Kratz, Lyman C., Norristown, Pa.
 Krauser, E. L., Norristown, Pa.
 Kriebel, Howard W., Pennsburg, Penna.

Kriebel, Dr. O. S., Pensburg, Pa.
 Kriebel, Mrs. O. S., Pensburg, Pa.
 Krusen, Dr. E. A., Norristown, Pa.
 Kulp, H. S., Norristown, Pa.
 Kurrie, G. R., Philadelphia, Pa.

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 Landis, J. Horace, Norristown, Pa.
 †Larzelere, J. B., Norristown, Pa.
 Larzelere, N. H., Esq., Norristown, Penna.

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*Lee, Edward Clinton, Haverford, Penna.

Lessig, Othniel B., Pottstown, Pa.
 †Long, Mrs. Mary B., Norristown, Penna.

Lower, Rev. Wm. Barnes, Bridgeport, Pa.

†Lower, Mrs. Wm. Barnes, Bridgeport, Pa.

Lukens, Mrs. Jawood, Conshohocken, Pa.

Lutz, Rev. George W., Pensburg, Penna.

Lysinger, J. Walter, Norristown, Penna.

Lysinger, Mrs. J. Walter, Norristown, Pa.

Major, Anita, Norristown, Pa.

Major, Charles, Norristown, Pa.

Major, Mrs. Charles, Norristown, Penna.

*Maloney, Mrs. Harriet, Blue Bell, Penna.

Mann, Dr. Charles H., Bridgeport, Penna.

Mann, Charles S., Maple Glen, Pa.

March, M. L., Norristown, Pa.

Marple, Miss Mary, Norristown, Penna.

Marshall, Dr. Henry, Norristown, Penna.

Marshall, Mrs. Henry, Norristown, Penna.

McClintock, William C., Ardmore, Penna.

McDermott, Mrs. William, Norristown, Pa.

McFarland, Elbridge, Norristown, Penna.

McGlatthery, Miss Sarah, Philadelphia, Pa.

McInnes, Mrs. Rebecca, Norristown, Pa.

McIntosh, Rev. A. B., Norristown, Penna.

McKee, Rev. C. F., Oaks, Pa.

McMurtrie, Mrs. Minnie B., Philadelphia, Pa.

McShea, Mrs. Stewart R., Atlantic City, N. J.

*Meigs, John, LL.D., Pottstown, Penna.

Meschter, Cyrus K., Worcester, Pa.

*Middleton, Samuel P., Norristown, Penna.

Miller, Miss Jane, Norristown, Pa.

Miller, Hon. John Faber, Norristown, Pa.

Miller, Mrs. John Faber, Norristown, Pa.

Miller, Miss Margaret, Norristown, Penna.

Miller, Miss Maud, Norristown, Pa.

Miller, Robert C., Norristown, Pa.

Miller, Dr. William G., Norristown, Penna.

Minnich, Rev. Michael Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mogee, Eliza, Norristown, Pa.

Moore, Miss M. Anna, Norristown, Montague, William E., Norristown, Penna.

Moyer, William F., Norristown, Pa.

Murray, Clara Summers, Conshohocken, Pa.

Naile, F. I., Lieut. Commander, U. S. N., Norristown, Pa.

Nassau, Rev. Robert Hamill, Ambler, Pa.

Naylor, John Hyatt, Norristown, Penna.

Nesbit, Edward Lightner, M. D., Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Niblo, Miss Caroline A., Conshohocken, Pa.

Niblo, Rev. James M., Philadelphia, Penna.

Novioch, Horace C., Philadelphia, Penna.

Oehlert, Elizabeth H., Royersford, Penna.

Ohl, Mrs. Linda K., Norristown, Penna.

Okeson, Miss Anna I., Norristown, Penna.

Orr, Sylvester H., Norristown, Pa.

Overholtzer, John E., Norristown, Penna.

Parsons, Luther C. Cynwyd, Pa.

Peirce, Harold, Philadelphia, Pa.

Pennypacker, Henry C., Phoenixville, Pa.

Pennypacker, Mrs. Henry C., Phoenixville, Pa.

Pennypacker, James Lane, Hadonfield, N. J.

Pennypacker, Hon. Samuel W., Schwenksville, Pa.

Perry, Rev. S. O., Jeffersonville, Penna.

Pitcher, Mrs. Molly V., Centre Square, Pa.

Place, Dr. B. F., Norristown, Pa.

Platt, Rev. James A., Jeffersonville, Pa.

Poley, George W., Norristown, Pa.

Potter, Miss Margaret, Norristown, Penna.

Potts, William W., Norristown, Pa.

Potts, Mrs. William W., Norristown, Pa.

Preston, Miss Katharine, Norristown, Pa.

- Rahn, Warren R., Ambler, Pa.
 Ralston, Isabella G., Norristown, Penna.
 Rambo, Charles N., Norristown, Penna.
 Rambo, Joseph S., Norristown, Pa. Penna.
 Read, Miss Nina B., Norristown, Penna.
 Reed, Joseph A., Esq., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Reed, Miss Mary E., Jeffersonville, Penna.
 Register, I. Layton, Ardmore, Pa.
 Reifsnnyder, R. L. P., Norristown, Penna.
 Rex, John, Norristown, Pa.
 Rex, Mrs. John, Norristown, Pa.
 Rhodes, I. Milton, Edge Hill, Pa.
 Richards, Helen E., Norristown, Penna.
 Richards, H. M. M., Lebanon, Pa.
 Richards, Mrs. Isaac, Norristown, Penna.
 Rider, Frank P., Norristown, Pa.
 Rider, Mrs. Frank P., Norristown, Penna.
 Rittenhouse, Mrs. Frank, Norristown, Pa.
 Ritter, Miss Nina S., Norristown, Penna.
 Roberts, George W., Norristown, Penna.
 Roberts, Samuel, Norristown, Pa.
 Roberts, Percival, Jr., Pencoys, Pa.
 Roberts, Willis R., Norristown, Pa.
 Robinson, David E., Norristown, Penna.
 Rogers, Joseph B., Jeffersonville, Penna.
 Root, R. Morgan, Pottstown, Pa.
 Rorer, Rev. H. C., Norristown, Pa.
 Rorer, Mrs. H. C., Norristown, Pa.
 Rubincam, Mrs. Ida M., Plymouth Meeting, Pa.
 Rust, David, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Rutter, William Ives, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Ryan, James J., Philadelphia, Pa.
 *Sallade, Mrs. J. D., Norristown, Penna.
 Saul, Rev. J. Elmer, Norristown, Penna.
 Schadt, Thomas A. J., Coplay, Pa.
 Schall, General John, Norristown, Penna.
 Schall, Reuben T., Norristown, Pa.
 Scheidt, Mrs. Adam, Norristown, Penna.
 Schlichter, J. Warren, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Schwenk, Mrs. Irvin, Schwenksville, Pa.
 Scott, Rev. John T., Jeffersonville, Penna.
 Sheppard, Miss Susan, Norristown, Penna.
 Shoemaker, Albert, Jeffersonville, Penna.
 Shoemaker, Morris H., Norristown, Penna.
 Sims, Mrs. J. C., Chestnut Hill, Pa.
 Sims, Joseph Patterson, Chestnut Hill, Pa.
 Simpson, Mrs. Robert W., Norristown, Pa.
 Slingluff, Miss Ella, Norristown, Penna.
 Slough, Ephriam, Esq., Norristown, Penna.
 Smith, Rush B., Norristown, Pa.
 Smith, Mrs. Thomas B., Norristown, Pa.
 Smyth, S. Gordon, West Conshohocken, Pa.
 Solly, Hon. William, Norristown, Penna.
 Solly, Mrs. William, Norristown, Penna.
 Spangler, Rev. H. T., Collegeville, Penna.
 Spare, Chester M., Phoenixville, Penna.
 Spare, Mrs. Chester M., Phoenixville, Pa.
 Stauffer, W. L., Norristown, Pa.
 Stauffer, Mrs. W. L., Norristown, Penna.
 Stickler, Franklin A., Norristown, Penna.
 Stokes, William C., Norristown, Penna.
 Stone, Frank S., Chestnut Hill, Pa.
 Strassburger, Ralph Beaver, Gwynedd, Pa.
 Styer, Miss Hannah, Norristown, Penna.
 Sullivan, William M., Norristown, Penna.
 Summers, Miss Lillian, Conshohocken, Pa.
 Supplee, Elizabeth D., Norristown, Penna.
 Supplee, Horatio J., Villa Nova, Penna.
 Supplee, Israel H., Bryn Mawr, Pa.
 Swift, Miss Elizabeth, Norristown, Penna.
 Taggart, Anna G., Norristown, Pa.
 Tatlock, Rev. William A., Jeffersonville, Pa.
 Taylor, Rev. W. W., Bridgeport, Penna.
 Tegtmeier, Dr. C. F., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Thomas, Miss Augusta, Norristown, Pa.
 Thomas, Miss Ella L., Norristown, Penna.
 Thomas, Mrs. Jeanette D., Norristown, Pa.
 Thompson, Hon. J. Whitaker, Mont Clare, Pa.
 Thomson, Mrs. Mark, Norristown, Penna.
 Tinner, Robert B., Millville, N. J.
 Tyson, Harry B., Norristown, Pa.
 Tyson, Neville D., Esq., Norristown, Pa.
 Tyson, Mrs. Sarah, King-of-Prussia, Pa.
 Vaux, George, Jr., Bryn Mawr, Pa.

- Wagner, Rev. Irvin F., Eagleville, Penna.
 Wagner, William H., New Hanover, Pa.
 Walker, Isabelle, Norristown, Pa.
 Walker, Winfield S., Norristown, Penna.
 Wanner, Ellwood J., Norristown, Penna.
 Wanner, Mrs. Ellwood J., Norristown, Pa.
 Wanger, George, Norristown, Pa.
 Wanger, George F. P., Pottstown, Penna.
 Weager, Miss Abbie C., Norristown, Pa.
 Weaver, Mrs. Flora Egbert, Norristown, Pa.
 Weaver, J. K., Norristown, Pa.
 Weaver, Mrs. J. K., Norristown, Penna.
 *Weber, Hannah, Norristown, Pa.
 Weber, W. Harrison, Norristown, Penna.
 Weber, Winfield S., Norristown, Penna.
 Weitzell, Mrs. M. Fanny Evans, Ridley Park, Pa.
 Welsh, Miss Julia A., Norristown, Penna.
 Wentz, Mrs. Henry, Norristown, Penna.
 Wentz, Hon. John A., Ft. Washington, Pa.
 *Wetherill, Charles, Philadelphia, Penna.
 Wetherill, Francis D., Philadelphia, Penna.
 Wetherill, Herbert J., Chestnut Hill, Pa.
 Whitcomb, Miss Laura V., Norristown, Pa.
 Wleand, Rev. C. S., Pottstown, Pa.
 Williams, Rev. C. F., Norristown, Penna.
 Williams, Mrs. C. F., Norristown, Penna.
 *Williams, George M., Conshohocken, Pa.
 Williams, I. C., Royersford, Pa.
 Williams, Mrs. John J., Norristown, Penna.
 Williams, Parker S., Philadelphia, Penna.
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